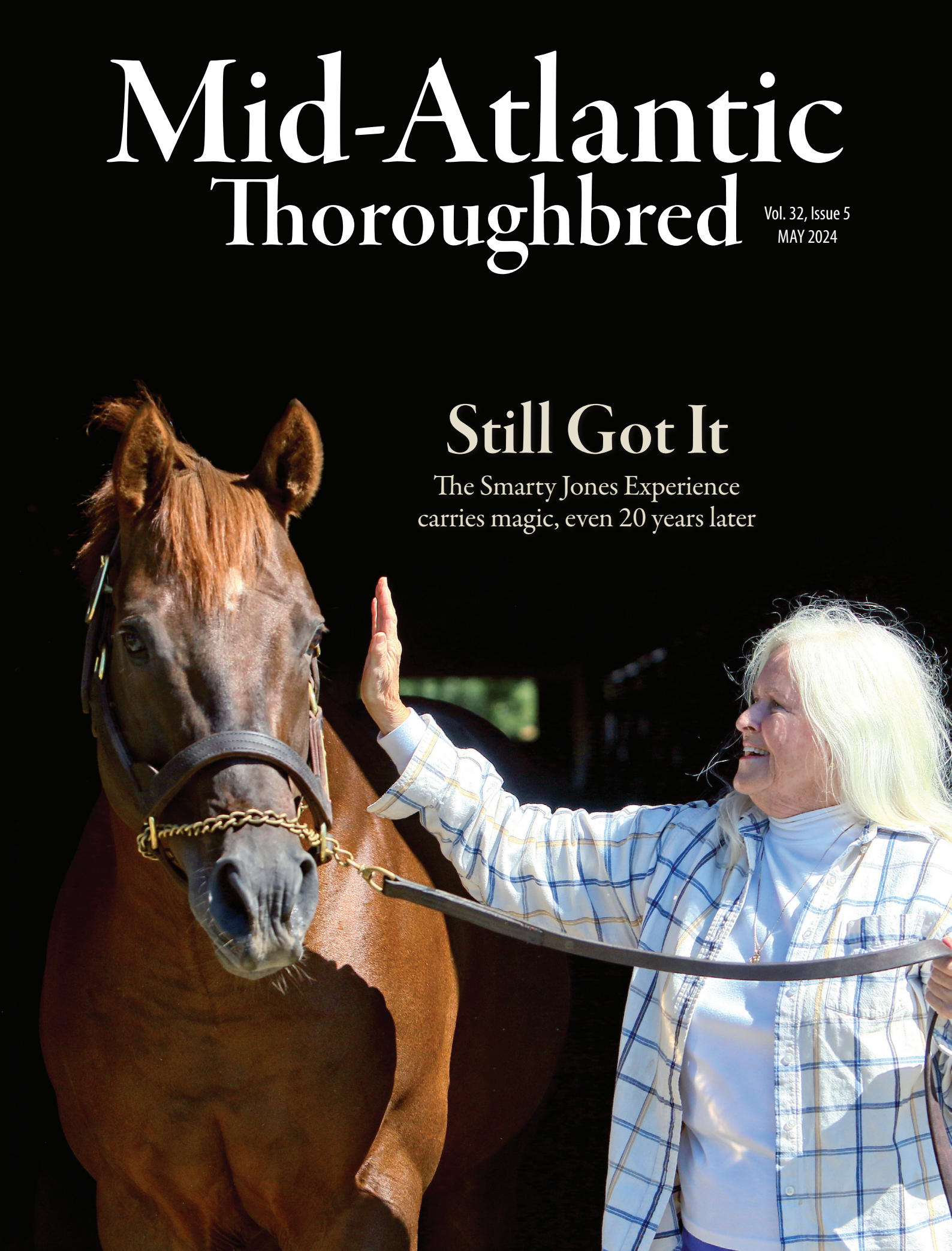
Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Vol. 32, Issue 5
MAY 2024

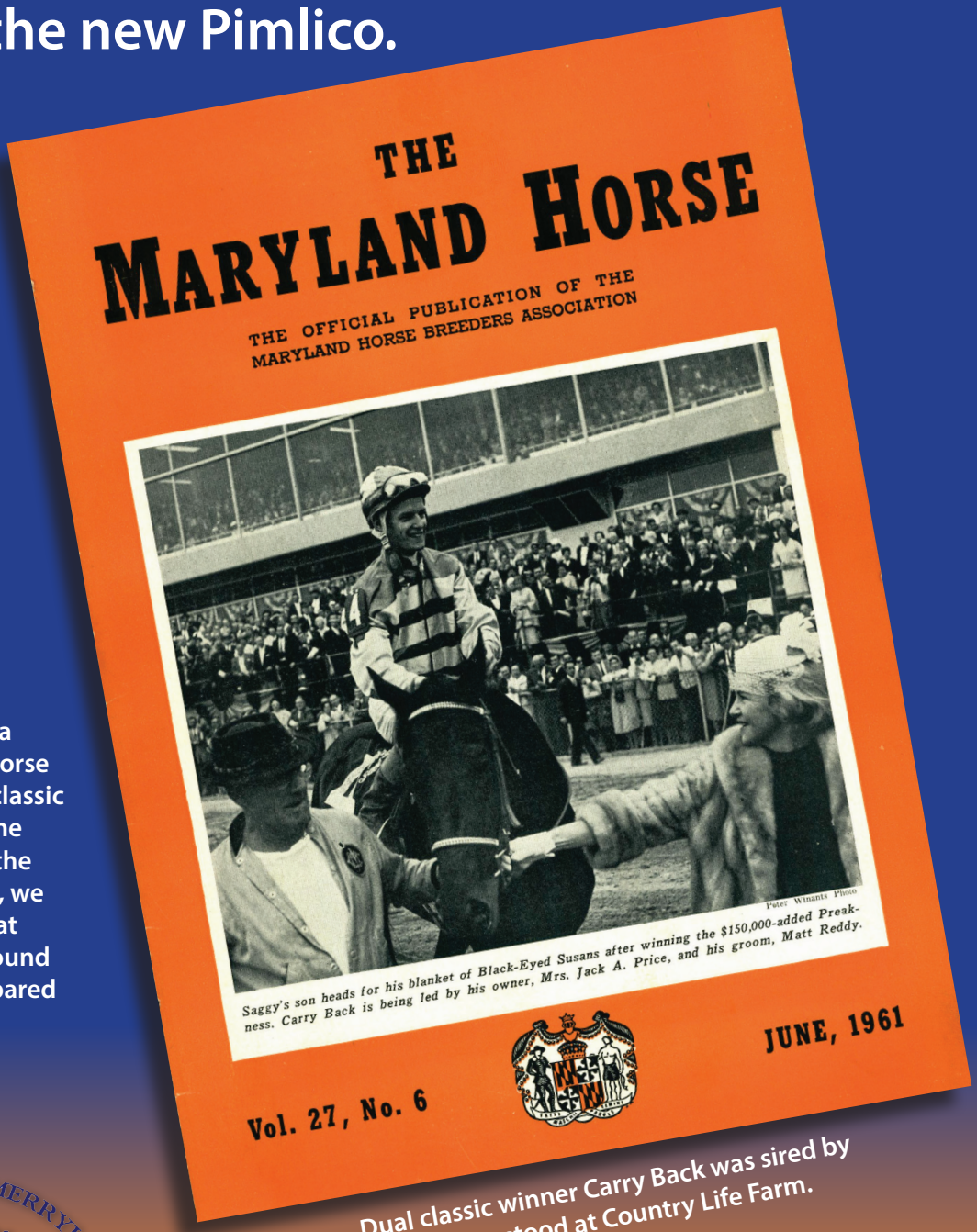


Still Got It

The Smarty Jones Experience carries magic, even 20 years later

New Day in Maryland

Breed at Country Life.
Train at Merryland.
Win at the new Pimlico.


THE
MARYLAND HORSE
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Peter Winants Photo
Saggy's son heads for his blanket of Black-Eyed Susans after winning the $150,000-added Preakness. Carry Back is being led by his owner, Mrs. Jack A. Price, and his groom, Matt Reddy.
Vol. 27, No. 6
JUNE, 1961

Six decades ago, a Maryland-sired horse won Maryland's classic race. Now, with the April passage of the Pimlico Plus plan, we look to repeat that feat, this time around with a horse prepared at our Merryland Training Center.

Dual classic winner Carry Back was sired by Saggy, who stood at Country Life Farm.

COUNTRY LIFE & MERRYLAND
From Beginning to Winning

Maryland's Oldest Thoroughbred Farm
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
www.countrylifefarm.com
Office 410-879-1952 • Josh Pons 443-807-0644
Mike Pons 410-459-8517 • Christy Holden 410-808-1325

Midlantic May

TWO-YEAR-OLDS IN TRAINING

MONDAY & TUESDAY, MAY 20 - 21, 2024

Under Tack Show: May 14 - 16 | Timonium, Maryland

Fasig-Tipton
fasigtipton.com

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

— Set List —

Twenty Years After: Smarty Jones still impresses

Pennsylvania's horse Smarty Jones captured the attention of racing fans near and far when he won the 2004 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes, and came up a length shy of a historic Triple Crown win. By Joe Clancy. Page 28

Mario Pino built a career one win at a time

One of just 10 jockeys to win 7,000 races, Mario Pino rode in the Mid-Atlantic for essentially all of his unparalleled career. Nearly three years into retirement, he looked back on it all, including a battle with cancer. By Don Markus. Page 38

Sales 2-year-olds made in Virginia

From a base at Middleburg Training Center, Madison Meyers built a business by getting 2-year-olds ready for trainers. This year, she takes a group to Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's May sale. By Sean Clancy. Page 48

Trackside Laurel Park: stakes double

Maryland breeders Charles and Cynthia McGinnes produce two stakes winners on the same day at Laurel Park with Take a Hint and Too Many Kisses. By John Piassek. Page 54

— Entries —

Post Time 6

The Starting Gate 8

Next Chapters 24
Legendary

From the Editor 26
Maryland gets chance to win big bet

Broker's Tip 60
A mostly true tale about three men and a bull

— The Paddock —

Maryland newsletter 67

New Jersey newsletter 75

North Carolina newsletter 79

Pennsylvania newsletter 81

South Carolina newsletter 85

Virginia newsletter 87

West Virginia newsletter 89

Steeplechase newsletter 91

— Evening Stables —

In Memoriam 64

Classifieds 93

Looking Back 94

Past Time 96

On our cover: Smarty Jones and owner/breeder Pat Chapman share a moment at Equistar Farm in Pennsylvania. *Photo by Kim Pratt.*

WES CARTER TRAINING STABLE

UNDER TACK MAY 14-16 • 8 AM
SELLING MAY 20-21 • FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC

Don't miss us at Timonium with another great group of 2YOs!

103 **Central Banker** colt o/o Jamaican Ginger (Maria's Mon) NY-bred
110 **Catholic Boy** colt o/o Just Joyful (Street Boss) KY-bred
113 **Audible** colt o/o Justwalkonby (Giant's Causeway) KY-bred
115 **Mendelssohn** colt o/o Kerry's Ring (Kitten's Joy) KY-bred
162 **Tiz the Law** filly o/o Marcy Darcy (Smart Strike) Reg. NY-bred
257 **Mendelssohn** filly o/o Red Neck Song (Unbridled's Song) KY-bred
289 **Kantharos** colt o/o Seagrass (Quality Road) KY-bred
335 **Imagining** filly o/o Success At Sunup (Successful Appeal) MD-bred
346 **Mosler** filly o/o Swimmer (Rock Slide) MD-bred
434 **Game Winner** colt o/o Alottalute (Midnight Lute) MD-bred
446 **Central Banker** gelding o/o Artillery Punch (Kitten's Joy) NY-bred
451 **Solomini** gelding o/o Autumn Ash (Tapit) NY-bred
498 **Goldencents** filly o/o Carolina Tapper (Tapit) MD-bred

PRE-SALE INQUIRIES WELCOME
CALL WES at 803-664-4101 (cell)

SEND YOUR MARE TO MARYLAND
After she foals here, breed to one of our stallions and your 2024 foal is eligible to be a registered Maryland-bred*

Begining with 2YOs of 2025, Maryland-sired Maryland-breds earn 40% higher bonuses!

Maryland Stallions for 2024

BARBADOS *(SPEIGHTSTOWN)*
BLOFELD *(QUALITY ROAD)*
BOURBON COURAGE *(LION HEART)*
CUPID *(TAPIT)*
DIVINING ROD *(TAPIT)*
ECLIPTICALSPRALINE *(ECLIPTICAL)*
ENDORSED *(MEDAGLIA D'ORO)*
ENGAGE *(INTO MISCHIEF)*
FIRST MONDAYS *(CURLIN)*
FRIESAN FIRE *(A.P. INDY)*
GALAWI (IRE) *(DUBAWI-Ire)*
GOLDEN LAD *(MEDAGLIA D'ORO)*
GREAT NOTION *(ELUSIVE QUALITY)*
HOLY BOSS *(STREET BOSS)*
HOPPERTUNITY *(ANY GIVEN SATURDAY)*
IRISH WAR CRY *(CURLIN)*
KOBE'S BACK *(FLATTER)*
LONG ON VALUE *(VALUE PLUS)*
LONG RIVER *(A.P. INDY)*
MADEFROMLUCKY *(LOOKIN AT LUCKY)*
MOSLER *(WAR FRONT)*
NOT ABROAD *(NOT FOR LOVE)*
UNCLE LINO *(Uncle Mo)*
V. I. P. TICKET *(WINDSOR CASTLE)*

MARYLAND: IT'S THE PLACE TO BE

*Horses must be registered with the Maryland Horse Breeders Association to be eligible to earn bonuses

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Volume 32, Issue 5

321 Main St., Reisterstown, MD 21136
(410) 252-2100 x116
Fax (888) 616-9797
MidAtlanticTB.com
Facebook.com/Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred

Director of publications: Barrie B. Reightler
breightler@marylandthoroughbred.com

Editor: Joe Clancy
editor@marylandthoroughbred.com
410-392-5867

Associate editor: Cindy Deubler
cdeubler@marylandthoroughbred.com

Editorial assistant: Lydia Williams
lwilliams@marylandthoroughbred.com

Communications manager: John Piassek
jpiassek@marylandthoroughbred.com

Senior writers:
Sean Clancy sean@marylandthoroughbred.com
Tom Law tom@marylandthoroughbred.com

Circulation & member services: Emily Stakem
emily@marylandthoroughbred.com

National advertising: Ken Ward
Ken@TheWardGroupLLC.com

Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred (ISSN 1056-3245) is owned and published monthly with the exception of July by the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, 321 Main Street, Reisterstown, MD 21136. (410) 252-2100; Fax (888) 616-9797. Subscription rate $36 per year. Subscription rate outside the U.S. $91 per year (surface mail), payable by U.S. money order or by bank draft payable in U.S. funds. Canadian GST No. 130277759; C.P.C. IPM No. 0956988. Subscription price included in annual membership dues to the Maryland Horse Breeders Association.

Periodicals postage paid at Lutherville-Timonium, Md. 21093 and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred, 321 Main St., Reisterstown, MD 21136.

Single copies: $5 current issue, plus $4 postage and handling.
$15 Stallion Directory (December issue);
$15 Statistical Review (March issue), plus $5 postage and handling. Maryland residents add 6% sales tax.

Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred is mailed to paid subscribers; to licensed owners and trainers in the eight-state region; and to active members of participating breeder associations in the region.

Printed by The Lane Press,
Burlington, VT
Printed in the U.S.A.

Copyright 2024
Maryland
Horse Breeders
Association Inc.

AMERICAN HORSE PUBLICATIONS
PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN EQUINE MEDIA

You can register your Maryland-bred anytime.

Save a bundle

if you do it by

May 31st

of its yearling year

MHBA status	By May 31st of yearling year	June 1st or later	Savings
Breeder/Owner Member	**$100**	**$275**	**$175**
Non-member*	**$300**	**$475**	**$175**

Check eligibility and register online at MarylandThoroughbred.com.

Forms for mail-in registration available online at MarylandThoroughbred.com

Maryland-breds must be registered with the MHBA in order to earn bonuses from the Maryland Bred Race Fund Program.

*After you register your first foal, you automatically become a Breeder/Owner member of the MHBA, and every foal thereafter for one year is registered at the Breeder/Owner rate.

(EVERY REGISTRATION INCLUDES A $25 CONTRIBUTION TO THE MHBA'S BACKSTOP PROGRAM)

Got questions?

Call the MHBA at 410-252-2100 or email registrar@marylandthoroughbred.com

Maryland Horse Breeders Association • 321 Main St., Reisterstown, MD 21136

Post Time

PREAKNESS TIME. Delaware artist Leo Kahl's watercolor "The First Turn" won the Maryland Jockey Club's annual Art of Racing Preakness art contest. See The Starting Gate for more.

Say It Again

"You will not know where to find me."
Cricket Goodall, on what will happen if she hits the lottery

"You came up as Wilmington, Delaware,
the telemarketing capital of the world."
Equistar Farm's Rodney Eckenrode, whose number also starts with 302, on why he didn't answer editor Joe Clancy's phone call

"I had to get my husband to stop answering the phone. He would tell me, 'I just want to hear the number...' I had to say the horse was not for sale."
Pat Chapman, about her husband Roy listening to offers for Smarty Jones

"It's hard to say . . . Maybe one with the ability,
but not with the desire he had."
Jockey Stewart Elliott, on whether he ever rode a horse as good as Smarty Jones

"It's easy to say because he was a good horse, but he was cool as ----."
Trainer John Servis, about Smarty Jones' personality

Names of the Month

Call Another Play.
Larry Johnson's Maryland-bred 3-year-old filly, winner of the Weber City Miss Stakes April 20, is by Audible.

Drowningnchocolate.
Owner/trainer Steve Krebs, a regular Name of the Month reader, told us we missed one. And we did (Name of the Month is an inexact science, very). Krebs' 5-year-old Pennsylvania-bred mare is by Anchor Down out of Death by Chocolate.

Go Figure

2 Times this year (at least) Maryland-breds have won all but one race on the card at Laurel Park. On March 16, horses bred in the state won nine of the 10 races with Shaft's Bullet the only exception in the Harrison Johnson Stakes. The same feat happened Jan. 14 when Maryland-breds won the first eight (of nine) on the card.

212 Times his purchase price earned by Maryland-bred Up Against It. The 8-year-old Despite the Odds gelding, bred by Tom and Chris Bowman and Larry Johnson, sold for $1,500 as a yearling in 2017 and has earned $318,158 (while winning 12 races) for original purchaser Robin Graham and three other trainers. With David Mohan since an August 2023 claim, the gray won four of his first six starts this year.

550,000 Dollars paid for a Maryland-bred 2-year-old colt at Ocala Breeders' Sales Company April 16. Bred by Bowman and Higgins Stable, the dark bay son of Nyquist and the Not For Love mare How My Heart Works topped last year's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling sale at $205,000 when part of the Becky Davis consignment. Thorostock and Seth Morris Bloodstock signed the ticket then, and sent him to OBS where Spendthrift Farm and MKW Racing and Breeding made the winning bid. The price tag was the fourth highest on the four-day sale's opening session. The colt, who breezed a furlong in :10, comes from a family that includes half-brother Monday Morning Qb, who won the Maryland Million Classic in 2020. Second dam Formalities Aside produced nine winners including stakes-winning Awesome Flower, dam of Grade 1 winner Cyberknife, and Maryland sire First Mondays.

CELEBRATE THE 100TH RUNNING OF THE

BLACK-EYED SUSAN STAKES

FRIDAY / MAY 17

PIMLICO RACE COURSE

GET TICKETS NOW

Maryland-bred Mindframe makes big statement in debut

By John Piassek

The list of Triple Crown nominees released in early February included three Maryland-breds. One was a blank canvas: no races, no name, three workouts.

Now, he has a name – Mindframe – and he looks like a piece you'd want to display at the Met. He dazzled on debut at Gulfstream Park on the Florida Derby-G1 undercard March 30, breaking his maiden by 13¾ lengths with a 103 Beyer Speed Figure. That's the third-highest Beyer by a 3-year-old this year (as of April 20), and is the highest by a first-time starter since Speed Boat Beach's 104 at Del Mar in September 2022.

Mindframe's Maryland roots run deep. He represents four generations for Mid-Atlantic breeder and owner Larry Johnson. Mindframe's pedigree traces to the mare who started it all for Johnson: Ran's Chick.

At the Timonium mixed sale in December 1978, Johnson and a partner took a $2,400 chance on a 2-year-old filly with an unassuming pedigree. Ran's Chick's racing career ended before it got started after she bowed a tendon training, and Johnson, not knowing what to do, took another chance on her as a broodmare. He was a fan of Oliver Goldsmith's stallion Red Monk and sent Ran's Chick to him. The resulting filly, foaled in 1980, was Whatwouldhappenif, an 11-time winner and producer of nine winners, four stakes performers.

Against all odds, Ran's Chick became a prolific broodmare. From 13 foals, all starters, she produced 11 winners, including stakes winners Turn to T. J. and Special Kell. Her only two foals who did not win, Very Busy and Another Kell, became stakes producers. Her success helped launch Johnson's breeding operation, now featuring almost two dozen broodmares at his Legacy Farm in Bluemont, Va.

"It's been a remarkable ride that defies any logic or explanation," said Johnson. "With each generation, I've tried to breed to better stallions, and the success has continued. I've been very fortunate."

Special Kell's third foal, by Star de Naskra, was named Star Kell. From nine foals, Star Kell produced seven starters, all winners, including Strike the Moon, a two-time stakes winner and earner of $680,170, stakes-placed What Time It is, the dam of Maryland-bred champion Never Enough Time, and her final foal, the Street Sense filly Walk of Stars.

"Being by Street Sense, I think that puts some quality in her," said Johnson. "As a 2-year-old, I think she was immature. She was a tough filly to keep weight on, and she was hard on herself in training."

She proved especially adept on tight tracks. She broke her maiden by 30¼ lengths – in a 1-mile race – on Timonium's 5-furlong track as a 3-year-old in 2014, and won four times around Charles Town's 6-furlong oval in 2015, including the Pink Ribbon Stakes.

Johnson retired Walk of Stars in 2016, and between her success and Strike the Moon's, was optimistic about her as a broodmare prospect. Her first three foals won, including stakes-placed Hollywood Walk. For her fourth mating, Johnson took advantage of the share of Constitution he purchased and sent Walk of Stars to the WinStar Farm stallion in 2020. The resulting colt, Mindframe, was foaled at Dance Forth Farm in Warwick, Md., May 13, 2021.

"It was a pretty easy decision to breed her to Constitution," said Johnson. "I watched him break his maiden at Gulfstream, and I thought it was remarkable. He had the rail on debut, he broke slowly, and just devoured the field. I thought he was a terrific racehorse, and I've had a good relationship with WinStar."

PREAKNESS/149

SAT / MAY 18

As he watched Mindframe grow up at Legacy Farm, Johnson began to sense the colt might be something special.

"He was always kind of a standout, and as he matured, he became more of a standout," Johnson said. "He was very athletic; you'd watch him in the field and say, 'Wow, who's he?' As sales prep began, he began to thrive. He handled everything terrific, and as the summer progressed, he just seemed to get better and better. I was very high on him."

Johnson decided to enter him in the 2022 Keeneland September yearling sale, and sent him to the Bill Betz consignment in Kentucky with optimistic expectations. As the sale drew closer, Mindframe's physique and stakes-laden pedigree started to attract more attention.

"I could tell he was being well-received," Johnson said. "The right people were looking at him. The ones taking a second look and doing repository work were serious players."

Watching from home, Johnson was delighted to watch the bidding on Mindframe soar past six digits. The hammer fell for $600,000 to Repole Stable and St. Elias Stable, making Mindframe the most expensive horse Johnson's ever bred. He was thrilled not only that the colt sold for so much, but that he went to high-profile, well-respected connections.

"I was stunned, pleasantly so," said Johnson. "When I saw he was going to Repole and [trainer Todd] Pletcher, that made me quite pleased. To go to an end-user where I know he'll be in Pletcher's hands; I thought 'If he's going to be good, he's going to be given the best opportunity there.' "

COGLIANESE PHOTOGRAPHY

Mindframe had only one workout as a 2-year-old, but returned to the worktab at Pletcher's Palm Beach Downs base in late January and was ready by late March. Listed as the tepid 7-2 morning line favorite for his debut, Mindframe was bet early and often, closing as the 11-10 favorite. He made a powerful move to the lead on the far turn under Irad Ortiz Jr., and opened up in the stretch. Johnson, like most of the racing world, was awestruck.

"I knew there was the perception of a lot of ability there, but I couldn't have imagined what he did," said the breeder. "When Ortiz asked him, he just exploded. It was remarkable. To think I bred him, and that I have his mother and half-sister, and what that might mean in terms of future opportunities, it's exciting."

Johnson is looking forward to watching Mindframe on bigger stages.

"I saw where Pletcher said he was a little concerned about if he'd have enough conditioning, and said he [broke his maiden] all on ability," Johnson said. "I hope he moves forward from that. I'm confident they'll do the right thing by the horse, and we'll see just how good he is."

Walk of Stars' most recent foal is the 2-year-old Virginia-bred Maclean's Music colt Lonesome Road, foaled May 25, 2022. Johnson plans on campaigning the colt and is excited about what the future holds.

"He's a big, strong, attractive horse. We're going slow with him, he had some minor, nagging issues, but he's about to start more serious training. Who knows what he might be, but I've got reason for optimism."

Walk of Stars was expecting a foal by Jack Christopher, with plans to breed her back to Constitution for 2025. ■

1/ST PRESENTS

PREAKNESS LIVE

SATURDAY MAY 18TH

FEATURING

JACK HARLOW

— PLUS — (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

CHANNEL TRES (DJ SET)

CHANTEL JEFFRIES

FRANK WALKER • GRYFFIN

GET TICKETS NOW

PALM TREE CREW

Milestones

Signed:

By Delaware Park and the Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, a three-year contract, which includes an agreement for year-round stabling and training. "I am pleased to announce this multi-year contract," said Delaware Park chief financial officer Kevin DeLucia. "We have worked hard to provide safe and exciting racing in the highly competitive Mid-Atlantic region and this contract ensures we will continue to attract quality horses and stables to Delaware." DTHA president Tim Ritchey said, "Delaware Park's commitment to provide year-round stabling and training again has been very well received by our horsemen. Remaining at the facility year-round benefits the local economy and is a tremendous convenience for our horsemen so they can keep their business operations here in the state." The year-round stall application, and related fee schedule, will be released this summer. Delaware opens for live racing May 15.

Scheduled:

By the Thoroughbred Education and Research Foundation, the first Soiree for Safety fundraiser, May 24 at Maryland's Fair Hill Training Center. Dedicated to the advancement of racing, safety and education in the Mid-Atlantic, the event starts at 5:30 p.m. and will include food, drinks, socializing and a presentation by New York Racing Association equine medical director Dr. Scott Palmer. Founded by Thoroughbred breeders and owners Herb and Ellen Moelis, TERF supports Thoroughbred health, welfare and racing safety through the funding of scholarships, educational programs and equine research with a specific focus on the region. The

NIKKI SHERMAN/EQUI-PHOTO.

Side Eye. Pony rider Marianne Handel and racetrack patrons use their glasses to watch the solar eclipse at Parx Racing April 8. Lead pony Mr. T was not impressed.

CHROMO SUMES

FIRST FOALS BY
UNCLE MO'S CLASSIC SON.

Filly o/o Enthrall
at 51 days

Filly o/o Allez Jete
at 59 days

Colt o/o She's a Dime
at 41 days

Colt o/o Lucy Buckner
at 54 days

MO DUNEGAL

View foal gallery at
SpendthriftFarm.com

The best late-season deals are at

SPENDTHRIFT

Milestones

Soiree for Safety will conclude with a live auction of fine art items from the Moelis collection to benefit TERF. For more information, see terfusa.org.

Won:

The Maryland Jockey Club's Preakness: The Art of Racing contest with an original watercolor painting titled "The First Turn," Delaware artist Leo Kahl. (See Post Time on page 6) The Baltimore native's painting was selected by a panel of judges from hundreds of submissions. In its third year, the art contest launched Jan. 8 in partnership with the Maryland Institute College of Art. The top 10 vote-getters in a public poll were then judged by a panel of elected officials, community leaders and art professionals. "My objective was to capture the colors, excitement and festive mood of Pimlico Race Course and The Preakness Stakes," said Kahl. "I chose the loose and romantic medium of watercolor to depict this scene as it best depicts the movement and drama of the day." Kahl receives a $4,000 prize and two VIP tickets to Preakness 149 May 18 at Pimlico. Additionally, his work will be reproduced on a curated collection of Preakness 149 merchandise available for purchase online and onsite during Preakness weekend. Proceeds from the sale of merchandise will be used to advance the activities of Park Heights Renaissance as it pursues affordable housing for families and provides employment opportunities to people of Park Heights. For more, see Preakness.com/the-art-of-racing.

Announced:

Matt Dinerman as Monmouth Park's new track announcer for the 2024 racing season. Currently the voice of Oaklawn Park, Dinerman, 31,

began his announcing career nine years ago at Emerald Downs. Before moving to Oaklawn late last year, he was the track announcer and handicapper at Golden Gate Fields for six years. "I'm delighted to be joining the team at Monmouth," said Dinerman, a native of California. "It's an honor to be selected as their next voice. Monmouth is a beautiful racetrack with a large, enthusiastic fan base that supports great racing. I'm really looking forward to meeting and being a part of the community." Matt follows in the footsteps of Chris Griffin, Jason Beem, Frank Mirahmadi, Travis Stone and Larry Collmus, all who have been the full-time announcers at Monmouth Park for the past 30 years. The 2024 Monmouth racing season runs May 11 through Sept. 15, after which Dinerman will take the mic at the Meadowlands for the all-turf, 10-day season in East Rutherford.

Sold:

Seven Mid-Atlantic-breds for six figures – three Maryland-breds, three Pennsylvania-breds and one from West Virginia – at the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's March 2-year-old sale in Ocala, Fla., March 12-14. A Maryland-bred Honor A. P. colt out of Flit (by Not For Love), bred by Dark Hollow Farm, led the way at $300,000. Sold out of the Cary Frommer consignment, the dark bay half-brother to stakes winners O Dionysus and Joy was purchased by Amerman Racing. Others sold were a Promises Fulfilled—Hot Fun colt bred in Maryland by Randy and Ridgely and Gary Ridgely, sold by consignor Eddie Woods, purchased by West Point Thoroughbreds and C J Stable and LEB Agent for $230,000; a Vekoma—Flatter Me Owen filly bred in West Virginia by James Miller, consigned by Coastal Equine (Jesse Hoppel), purchased by Hideyuki Mori for $190,000; a More Than Ready—Trace of Grace filly bred in Pennsylvania by WMT Stables and More Than Ready Syndicate, sold

2024 Maryland Steeplechase Governor's Cup Series

Presented by FARM CREDIT

2023 Maryland Steeplechase Timber Horse of the the Year: Charles C. Fenwick Jr.'s Royal Ruse, Elizabeth Scully aboard. Photo by Douglas Lees

Sunday, March 17 **Foxhall Farm Cup Team Chase** Butler
Sunday, March 31 **Green Spring Valley Point-to-Point** Hunt Valley
Saturday, April 6 **Elkridge-Harford Point-to-Point** Monkton
Saturday, April 13 **My Lady's Manor** Monkton
Sunday, April 14 **Mount Harmon Wicomico Hunt Point-to-Point** Earleville
Saturday, April 20 **Grand National Steeplechase** Butler
Saturday, April 27 **Maryland Hunt Cup** Glyndon
Sunday, May 19 **Potomac Hunt Races** Poolesville
Thursday, June 20 **Awards Dinner** Reisterstown
Saturday, September 28 **Legacy Chase at Shawan Downs** Hunt Valley
Sunday, October 20 **Cattail Chase Races** Brookeville

CLOUDBREAK®

A Maryland Tradition

www.MarylandSteeplechase.com

Irish Thoroughbred Marketing | Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred | Maryland Horse Breeders Association | Maryland Million

Milestones

PHOTOS BY Z

Bred in Maryland by Dark Hollow Farm, an Honor A. P. colt out of Flit, from the family of Safely Kept, sold for $300,000 to lead regional breds at OBS March.

by RiceHorse Stable (Brandon and Ali Rice) to Adelphi Racing Club, Joe Migliore, agent for $180,000; a Practical Joke—Life's a Gamble filly bred in Pennsylvania by Forgotten Land Investment, sold by de Meric Sales, agent, and purchased by Lauren Carlisle, agent for $170,000; a Gift Box—Involuntary colt bred in Maryland by 2500 Determined Stud, consigned by Little Farm Equine, agent, to Hubert Guy Bloodstock for $160,000; and a Not This Time—Moonlight Serenade filly, bred in Pennsylvania by Not This Time Syndicate and Uptowncharlybrown Stud, sold by Tom McCrocklin to Hoffman Thoroughbred, with McCrocklin as agent for $160,000. Thirteen regional-breds sold for an average of $122,615.

Listed:

Two Mid-Atlantic stakes for the Breeders' Cup Dirt Dozen Bonus Series. Pimlico's Maryland Sprint Stakes-G3 (Sprint division, May 18) and Monmouth's Philip H. Iselin Stakes-G3 (Dirt Mile division, Aug. 17) were selected for the program that features 12 North American graded dirt races, two per Breeders' Cup World Championships division (excluding the Classic). Horses finishing first, second, or third in designated races will earn a tiered bonus bankroll which can be utilized towars pre-entry and entry fees at the Breeders' Cup World Championships at Del Mar, Nov. 1-2.

Win:

Colonial Downs' Grade 2 Beverly D. or Monmouth Park's Grade 1 Haskell and be guaranteed a spot in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf and Breeders' Cup Classic, respectively. All entry fees, as well as a $10,000 travel allowance for all starters within North America stabled outside of California, will be provided. The races are two of the 41 North American stakes in the Breeders' Cup Challenge Series. The Beverly D. will run on the Grade 1 Arlington Million undercard Aug. 10. The Haskell, July 20, is the first Challenge Series race to be televised in 2024.

Created:

By Jockey Club UK and The Stronach Group's 1/ST Racing a partnership

THE RACING BIZ

The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

Pimlico Plus bill gets general assembly OK: Frank Vespe reports on the Maryland General Assembly's legislative signoff to the Pimlico Plus bill in a busy last day of the session, and sent it to Gov. Wes Moore. The overall bill, coupled with a series of agreements its passage is expected to trigger, will remake Maryland racing

Beyer – Weakness of Derby contenders' efforts notable: Heading into the final Kentucky Derby preps, longtime handicapper Andrew Beyer criticized the "weakness of the performances" of leading Derby contenders on "Off to the Races" radio.

Maryland racing commissioners seek "more active role": Amid an important legislative session in which the Maryland Racing Commission has been sidelined, some Commissioners' frustration boiled over, reported Vespe.

For Reynolds, it's like he never left: Jockey Larry Reynolds took a decade away from riding, but now that he's back it's like he never left, and even the faces in the jocks' room are similar, writes Ted Black.

to link historic races in the United Kingdom and high-profile turf contests at 1/ST tracks in North America. The winner of Pimlico's Jim McKay Stakes on Preakness Day receives an automatic entry and travel incentive to run in the July Cup-G1 at Newmarket July 13; Santa Anita's Charles Whittingham Stakes-G2 winner May 4 receives the same perks for Sandown Park's Coral-Eclipse-G1 July 6. Winners of those U.K. stakes are rewarded the same for two Santa Anita stakes in September.

— Mid-Atlantic-bred Stakes Winners —

March 14 – April 11

Maryland-bred

DETERMINED DRIVER, b.f., 2021, Dialed In—Elevated Vision, by Great Notion. B-2500 Determined Stud; O-D Hatman Thoroughbreds; T-Phil Schoenthal. $100,000 Beyond The Wire, Laurel, March 23.

JAXON TRAVELER, dk.b./br.h., 2018, Munnings—Listen Boy, by After Market. B-Dr. & Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau; O-West Point Thoroughbreds; T-Steve Asmussen. $250,000 Whitmore-G3, Oaklawn, March 16.

KENNEBEC, b.h., 2018, Lookin At Lucky—Thisdanseistaken, by Gators N Bears. B-The Elkstone Group; O-Sergio Salguero; T-Jose Silva Jr. $60,000 Wildcat, Turf Paradise, April 11.

POST TIME, gr./ro.c., 2020, Frosted—Vielsalm, by Fairbanks. B-Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Dr. Brooke Bowman & Milton Higgins III; O-Hillwood Stable; T-Brittany Russell. $300,000 Carter-G2, Aqueduct, April 6.

TAKE A HINT, gr./ro.g., 2020, Bandbox—Fancy Diamond, by Eastern Echo. B-Mr. & Mrs. Charles McGinnes; O-57 Strong; T-Gary Capuano. $75,000 Not For Love, Laurel, March 16.

TOO MANY KISSES, b.f., 2020, Arrogate—Casual Kiss, by Dehere. B-Mr. & Mrs. Charles McGinnes & Tim Keefe; O-Cynthia McGinnes & Francis Clemens; T-Tim Keefe. $75,000 Conniver, Laurel, March 16.

Pennsylvania-bred

I'M VERY BUSY, dk.b./br.c., 2020, Cloud Computing—Two Kisses, by Kissin Kris. B-Glenn Brok & Mark Toothaker; O-Team Hanley, Richard Schermerhorn & Paul Braverman; T-Chad Brown. $300,000 Muniz Memorial Classic-G2, Fair Grounds, March 23.

Post Time takes another step forward in Carter

April cover boy Post Time continued his climb by adding the $300,000 Carter Stakes-G2 at Aqueduct April 6. Hillwood Stable's Maryland-bred ran his career mark to 8-for-9 – including three wins in as many tries this year – while pushing his earnings to $582,910.

The son of Frosted won Laurel Park's 7-furlong General George-G3 in his graded stakes debut in February, and covered the same distance in the Carter while winning by a neck over Castle Chaos with Super Chow third. The four-horse field nearly turned into a trap for Post Time, who started as the 4-5 favorite for trainer Brittany Russell and her husband/jockey Sheldon Russell.

From post four, second choice Super Chow went to the front alone as Whittington Park angled well off the rail from post two and took second. From post three, Post Time rated to get inside Whittington Park and raced alongside Castle Chaos early. Super Chow completed the first quarter-mile in :24.38 and the half in an easy :48.18. Off the turn, Post Time rallied around Whittington Park to take third and went after Super Chow. Known for drifting late, the leader did just that – taking Post Time out several paths and into the center of the track as Castle Chaos charged through on the rail.

"I know the horse drifts," said Sheldon Russell. "At that time, when I

DOM NAPOLITANO / COGLIANESE PHOTOGRAPHY

Maryland-bred Post Time (left) launches a bid in the Carter at Aqueduct April 6.

circled to come three wide I was like 'I can get there before he drifts. I haven't asked Post Time to run yet.' They went slow and when I asked him to go the other horse picked up as well. I was in a bad spot."

Though the interference provided plenty of anxious moments, it didn't matter as Post Time fought past Super Chow and edged Castle Chaos (far to the inside) by a neck. Super Chow hung on for third after 1:24.

"Not many horses would have kept going and trying to pass," said the jockey. "My horse never gave up, kept coming and was so determined. I was proud of him. A lot of horses would have been, 'If I'm going to get bumped, I'm not going to pass that horse.' He did."

Post Time closed into faster fractions in the General George, and has won at distances up to a mile. The Aqueduct win was his first outside of Maryland after a third in last year's Perryville Stakes at Keeneland. Off his latest two wins, tougher assignments await.

"His style, as the races get better and the first quarter and halves get faster that's where you'll see him shine," said Sheldon Russell. "He has a high cruising speed, he does it easy. I'd like to leave him alone and let him fall into the race as it goes on. He's really fun, he makes it fun. People ask me if he's a Grade 1 horse. I've never won a Grade 1 so I don't know what that feels like. He's different, he's the best I've ridden, just because of how he does it."

Bred by Tom, Chris and Brooke Bowman and Milton Higgins III out of the stakes-winning Fairbanks mare Vielsalm, Post Time sold for $85,000 at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic as a yearling and was the champion Maryland-bred 2-year-old male of 2022.

See the April edition for more.

– Joe Clancy

WALTER WLODARCZYK / COGLIANESE PHOTOGRAPHY

Trainer Brittany Russell (right) and jockey Sheldon Russell are enjoying the ride with Post Time.

I'm Very Busy shines for Broks, Pennsylvania

For years, Mark Toothaker and Glenn Brok partnered on a few broodmares – breeding to stallions at Spendthrift Farm, where Toothaker is the stallion sales manager, and foaling at Pennsylvania's Diamond B Farm owned by Brok and his wife Becky.

"Our deals always were he owned the mare and bred her, then we took the mare, foaled her and we'd sell the foal and keep the mare," Glenn said in April. "We'd be co-breeders on the foal so we'd be able to split any breeders' bonuses they made in Pennsylvania."

The plan works, as Brok/Toothaker-breds have found success at various levels at Parx Racing and Penn National while adding up breeders' awards. The latest and perhaps best product of the relationship will probably never earn the partnership a dime in breeders' bonuses.

I'm Very Busy entered May with starts in New York, Kentucky, Florida and Louisiana. In 2022, he won his debut at Saratoga and started in the Breeders' Cup at Keeneland. Last year, he won an allowance and placed in a Grade 2 stakes at Aqueduct. This year, he was beaten a half-length in the $1 million Pegasus World Cup Turf-G1 at Gulfstream Park in January and won the Muniz Memorial-G2 at Fair Grounds in March. The 4-year-old son of Cloud Computing and the Kissin Kris mare Two Kisses will likely never run in the Keystone State.

COGLIANESE PHOTOGRAPHY

And that's just fine.

"We've all gotten so much recognition and had so much fun with it," Glenn said. "It's been a great experience and kind of shows you that you never know what might happen with a horse."

Two Kisses, 18 at the time, was at Toothaker's farm in Kentucky when the Broks visited in November 2019. Toothaker's pitch went something like: "Listen, I've got a mare if you want to do a deal. She's a little long in the tooth, but she's a nice mare."

Becky replied immediately, "We'll take her."

Glenn wasn't so sure. "Beck used to tell me all the time that we didn't want older mares, that we didn't want to be the owners of mares who were finished producing. I didn't always follow that, but I tried."

In foal to first-year stallion Cloud Computing, who won the 2017 Preakness Stakes-G1, the mare came to Diamond B and delivered a dark bay colt in April 2020. The Broks typically sold off the farm to Pennsylvania owners and trainers, but tagged I'm Very Busy as a sale horse.

"We thought this horse was a little nicer," said Glenn. "He was just getting fat at our place though, so we sent him to my daughter Sarah [and her husband Carlos Estrada, who own the C and S Thoroughbreds sales business] in Kentucky. They did some swimming with him and other things, got him presentable looking and sent him back to us for Timonium."

Sent to the Blake-Albina consignment at the 2021 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale, I'm Very Busy sold for $50,000 to James Layden, who pinhooked him to the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's March sale. On a $135,000 bid, agent Lauren Carlisle landed the colt, who races for Team Hanley, Richard Schermerhorn and Paul Braverman. Trained by Chad Brown, I'm Very Busy won the Saratoga debut and finished second in the Pilgrim Stakes-G2 before coming home 10th (four noses and a head from fifth) in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf-G1. The success spurred thoughts, in his breeders anyway, of a start in Penn National's Penn Mile-G2 the next year.

That didn't happen, as I'm Very Busy was off until July and didn't win until an Aqueduct allowance

in October. He closed 2023 with a second in the Hill Prince-G2 in November, and delivered back-to-back strong efforts in 2024. In Florida for the Pegasus, Glenn Brok wore his I'm Very Busy Breeders' Cup hat to the Diplomat Hotel bar and immediately found himself getting questioned.

"There's a big group of guys there, all together, and one comes over and asks me where I got the hat," he said. "I told him I bred the horse. He said they owned the horse and waved all the other guys over. Life's funny. I'm a lucky guy. Give Tooth all the credit. He had the mare, picked the stallion, all of it. Then give Becky credit. She's the one who said we'd take the mare, and she foaled the mare. Sarah and Carlos finished off the horse for us. It's been a lot fun."

I'm Very Busy has won three of nine starts with earnings of $590,450 through April, with eyes on the Grade 1 Turf Classic at Churchill Downs May 4. He's the sixth winner from six foals, and was the final foal for Two Kisses, who became a nurse mare with Flint Stites. She raised one foal for Stites, and died in last year at 22.

The Broks aren't as busy as they used to be. They sold Diamond B, where they stood stallions, foaled mares and prepped horses to sell, and bought a farm next to Sarah and Carlos in Georgetown, Ky.

"It's the old Echo Valley property, where [champions and Hall of Famers] Chris Evert and Winning Colors were bred and raised," said Glenn. "It's got an indoor for Becky, I'm down to one job working for Brook-Ledge [horse transport] and she's retired. It all worked out well."

– Joe Clancy

Jaxon Traveler wins Grade 3 in Arkansas

Twenty-eight starts into a career that began in 2020, Maryland-bred Jaxon Traveler recorded his second career graded stakes win with a triumph in the Whitmore-G3 at Oaklawn Park March 16. He won the Maryland Sprint Stakes-G3 in 2022.

Trained by Steve Asmussen for West Point Thoroughbreds, the son of Munnings and the After Market mare Listen Boy edged Tejano Twist by a nose in the $250,000 stakes after 6 furlongs in 1:10.04. West Point paid $140,000 for the dark bay as a 2-year-old in 2020, after Jaxon Traveler brought $80,000 as a yearling at Keeneland September. Bred by Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau, Jaxon Traveler won for the ninth time. He was fifth behind stablemate Skelly in the $500,000 Count Fleet Sprint Handicap-G3 at Oaklawn April 13 to push his lifetime earnings to $910,849.

RENEE TORBIT

— Next Chapters —

BY MAGGIE KIMMITT

Legendary (GB)

MAGGIE KIMMITT

Rosella Hunter and Legendary share a moment.

For most people in racing, the spring and summer of American Pharoah in 2015 was unforgettable. For Rosella Hunter, it was Legendary (GB).

Hunter and her former husband, trainer Niall Saville, had a bona fide stable star in Walter Swinburn's accomplished son of Australian champion sprinter Exceed and Excel and the Irish-bred Polar Falcon mare Red Carnation. The association came by chance when Saville and Hunter tried to buy a horse at a Tattersalls horses in training sale in England. When their selection ended up with a high reserve, they passed. Entirely at random, Swinburn reached out to make a connection.

"Are you interested in a horse?" he asked. "We can make something happen."

Former Irish champion jockey Walter "Wally" Swinburn is a respected breeder and owner of Genesis Green Stud in England. His son, the late Walter Swinburn, achieved fame as the jockey of, among others, All Along (Fr), Shareef Dancer, Shergar, whom he rode to victory in the 1981 Epsom Derby-G1. Then just 19, Walter Swinburn replaced Lester Piggott on the colt. The pair won by a record-breaking 10 lengths.

Wally Swinburn kept his word, shipping a horse to Saville's barn at Fair Hill Training Center in Maryland in 2013.

"The very first horse came over in partnership to sort of test the waters, I guess," Hunter said. "Then Legendary followed shortly after with a couple others. He won two races in England before he came here. He was always very difficult to settle; he's always been a very emotional and nervous sort, so they brought him home and gelded him right before he came over here. And honestly, that was probably part of the making of him."

Hunter's connection to Legendary was immediate and profound.

"There are some horses you just fall in love with, and I was so smitten with him from the first time I laid eyes on him," she said. "He's just the most gentle, kind and very thoughtful sort of horse. And he's exquisite to look at. I didn't know anything about him before he came. He just showed up in the barn, and I was like, 'Wow, that's my dream man.' "

Then 5, Legendary made his first start for Saville in a 1½-mile turf allowance at Keeneland April 17, 2014 and finished second. He won his next two starts, at Belmont Park, followed by his first North American stakes appearance in Saratoga's Lure. He dead-heated for third.

Back in Maryland at Laurel Park in September, Legendary won the Japan Racing Association Stakes to begin a successful collaboration with jockey Sheldon Russell. Legendary's one major quirk was a strong dislike of being passed on the outside. His head came up, and from that point on his race was over.

"Sheldon was really his go-to," Hunter said. "He's such a natural horseman and a kind and gentle rider. He did a fantastic job of always making sure that the horse was in the right spot and clear of other horses and had some breathing room."

Saville and Swinburn sent the horse back to Belmont the following month for the Knickerbocker Stakes-G3. He won

by 1¼ lengths over Canadian champion Up With the Birds and Mshawish and finished 2014 with four wins in seven American starts.

His 2015 campaign began with a fourth in the Maker's 46 Mile-G1 at Keeneland April 10 and included seven stakes tries, six graded. His schedule dovetailed with American Pharoah's Triple Crown quest with starts on the Preakness and Belmont Stakes undercards. He finished fifth in Pimlico's Dixie-G2, just before the thunderstorm that blackened Baltimore as the Preakness neared.

"Running on Preakness Day was really something," Hunter said. "And for a horse that doesn't like loud noises or crowds, it was very interesting to try to get to the paddock. I remember we had asked for special permission to saddle out on the track but they said no. So we ended up saddling inside and he held it together. We had that tremendous rainstorm right after he ran. We walked back to the barn to cool out and it just let loose. We were soaking wet."

Belmont Day three weeks later was much kinder, and dryer. Legendary finished third behind Slumber (GB) and Big Blue Kitten in the Manhattan-G1. Swinburn and his wife were on hand to enjoy what became a day for the history books.

"The crowd was just incredible, and it's a fantastic day to take your owner racing between the food, the service – everything is so nice," Hunter said. "We had a nice table upstairs overlooking the track. I remember the race kicked off and we stood there at the window watching it. When [American Pharoah] crossed the wire, the whole grandstand shook. I've never heard anything like it; the crowds went wild. We promptly ran down to the barn area and had to get a glimpse of American Pharoah walking back to the test barn. We were stabled one barn over. It was really pretty special."

Legendary continued to run into his 7-year-old season in 2016 but didn't reach the winner's circle again after the Knickerbocker. Never risked for a claiming tag, he finished fourth in his career finale at Belmont July 8, 2016.

"After he won the Knickerbocker, they had an offer for him to go to Japan to be sold for quite a lot of money," Hunter said. "I was in tears over it, and I remember Wally said to me 'Don't worry, I'll never sell your horse. I love this horse too and he's not going anywhere.' "

Retirement brought two options.

"We sat down with Wally, and he said the horse could stay here with us or he could go back to England," Hunter said. "He said, 'I'd really like him to stay with you and you look after him.' So I promised him I would, and I have."

Legendary headed into retirement with a record of 31-6-6-3 and $508,219. At 15, he lives on Hunter's farm a few miles from Fair Hill with 16-year-old Cranky, the lead pony who accompanied him to all his American races. A Pennsylvania-bred by Action This Day, Cranky lost all 12 starts, the last five over hurdles.

> "He's just the most gentle, kind and very thoughtful sort of horse . . . I didn't know anything about him before he came. He just showed up in the barn, and I was like, 'Wow, that's my dream man.' "
>
> *– Rosella Hunter*

"Cranky is Legendary's right-hand man," Hunter said. "He's sort of the eyes and ears of the situation and Legendary is the brains. Cranky's brains are not his strong point. He did run, but he just wasn't much. He wanted to go really long and slow. And it's the same thing – he's just kind and genuine."

Hunter planned a second career for Legendary, envisioning him as "the most beautiful show hunter." In reality, he was no more settled or relaxed in that environment than he had been on the racetrack. She took him to a few small Thoroughbred shows, jumping courses and earning ribbons, but it was even less enjoyable for her than it was for the horse.

"We'd have to spend an hour and a half in the warm-up ring just to go do a hack class," she said. "I had always loved showing, but it wasn't adding up for us together so I'm very happy just brushing him, petting him and seeing him happy out in the field."

You might question why Hunter, or anyone really, would keep and support a healthy, able-bodied horse who serves no real purpose. Hunter doesn't hesitate.

"During their careers, you're living off that high of a horse who's thriving and enjoying their job, and you find the key to them and watch them shine," she said. "It was so much fun for the whole stable. I've had plenty of people ask, 'Why would you pay to feed a horse that doesn't have a job?' Because he's my friend. He enriches my life, and that's what it's about. He's doing fantastic, and I hope he lives to be 100." ■

— From the editor —

BY JOE CLANCY

Maryland racing gets its opportunity

First the news. Last month, Maryland's state legislature – 41 votes for to six against in the Senate and 105-32 in the House of Delegates – passed H.B. 1524 to make the Pimlico Plus plan a reality for the future of Maryland's Thoroughbred industry.

The move triggers:

- The transfer of Pimlico Race Course by 1/ST Racing to the state of Maryland.
- The eventual closure of Laurel Park racetrack.
- The complete overhaul/revitalization of Pimlico as a year-round racetrack, training facility and home of the Preakness Stakes.
- The land acquisition and creation of a year-round training center, at a site yet to be selected, also owned by the state.
- The creation of a not-for-profit management company overseeing racing.
- The issuing of up to $400 million in bonds to pay for it all and paid back over 30 years with revenue already allocated to racing as part of state gaming law.

Plenty of finer details come along with all that, but those are the basics, assuming Gov. Wes Moore signs the bill into law. The Moore administration created the Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority last year, and charged it with finding a way forward, so his signature is

LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

expected. Anyone up for a Preakness Week signing ceremony at Pimlico? Can I get a pen?

And now the details. Throughout much of this process, leaders called Pimlico Plus a chance for racing to bet on itself instead of trying to work with a for-profit company to make it all work. Maryland's racing landscape is complicated, with no slot machines or other forms of gaming at the tracks but a connection between slots and the purse account, breeders'/owners' incentives and facility-upgrade funding. That structure basically puts owners, trainers and breeders in partnership with racetrack ownership, even if their aims don't always mesh and the incentives of said partnership aren't always clear. Maryland's horsemen supported operations at the track with $11 million annually to ensure a longer schedule of live racing, for example.

In its work last year, the MTROA studied various alternative models and listened to experts and industry leaders about the future. Officials of the Maryland Jockey Club and parent company 1/ST Racing said the company struggled to make its business profitable and presented a vision of fewer racing days, higher individual race purses and a larger share of slots support. Horsemen and breeders didn't agree with that vision and put forth a model with more live racing and a not-for-profit operator.

After examining those and other presentations, the MTROA put forth Pimlico Plus and worked out agreements with 1/ST. That felt like a monumental step. Next came the bill. Another big leap. Legislators talked about it in hearings, and ultimately amended it to satisfy Standardbred interests, include local representation on the not-for-profit board and earmark 10 percent of potential profits generated to assist the area of Baltimore near Pimlico.

And now the future. The new operating company, overseen by the MTROA, will keep the Maryland Jockey Club name and eventually take over the management of everyday racing, the training center and the Preakness.

Pimlico Plus will give Maryland a new racing facility and a new training facility. Owners and trainers will have more input than ever. Breeders will have stability. Baltimore will have another world-class sporting/entertainment venue to go with the Orioles and Ravens stadiums.

Racing loses some history in the demise of Laurel Park and the complete reconstruction of Pimlico. Both steps have been coming for some time, however, as neither facility is good enough anymore. I'll miss both, but I'll also welcome the chance to go racing at a new track and watch horses train at a new venue.

Draw it all out another step and the structure is in place for the MTROA and the management company to address other pieces of Maryland's racing future such as Fair Hill's unused turf course, Timonium's underused racetrack, the underfunded Maryland Million program, the (for now) four National Steeplechase Association meets in the state and, who knows, some future racetrack someone wants to create.

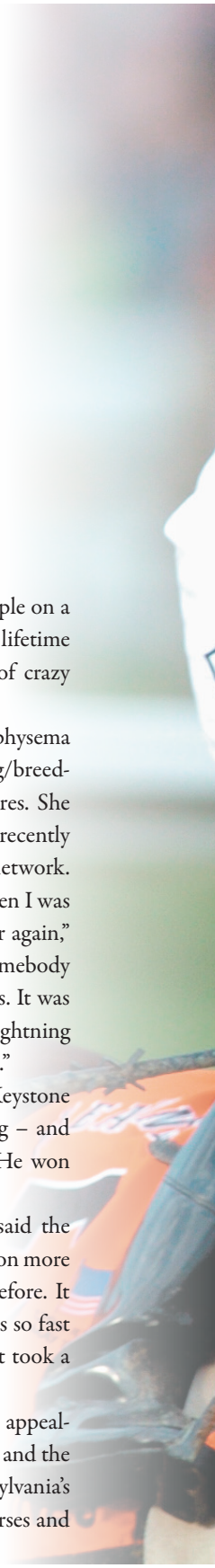
Much work remains – be it construction, vision, structure, management, personnel, scheduling, budgeting, you name it – but the potential for success is there.

Bet on it. ■

20/20 Hindsight

SMARTY JONES TOOK REGION, RACING ON EPIC RIDE IN 2004

By Joe Clancy



Before the 2004 Preakness Stakes-G1 at Baltimore's Pimlico Race Course, NBC reporter Bob Neumeier asked trainer John Servis a gambler's question about Kentucky Derby-G1 winner Smarty Jones.

"I believe since the early '80s that every winner of this race has had at least one workout between the Derby and the Preakness," Neumeier said. "You chose not to. Should people who backed your horse be a little concerned about that?"

Servis defended his position with two sentences. "Well, I just did what I thought was best for my horse. And if I did the wrong thing, I'm sure I won't be the first guy."

Nearly 20 years later, Servis expounded on the training plan – which, with the passage of time, doesn't seem as strange as Neumeier made it out to be.

"My horse just ran a mile-and-a-quarter and he's running back in two weeks," Servis said in late March. "Physically, he was fine, fit, ready to go. Mentally, I wanted him to feel like he could go bear hunting with a switch."

The bears never had a chance.

Facing nine rivals in the $1 million Preakness, Smarty Jones drafted off Derby runner-up Lion Heart until the top of the stretch, passed the leader on the inside and ran away. The margin was 11½ lengths – the largest in Preakness history. It could have been 20.

It's been two decades, but the race still awes the people involved. Not that the Smarty Jones Experience was ever solely about racetrack performance. Foaled at Roy and Pat Chapman's Someday Farm in Pennsylvania's southern Chester County, the chestnut son of Elusive Quality and the Smile mare I'll Get Along changed lives.

"We were on a ride of a lifetime, and we took people on a ride of a lifetime too," said Servis, who passed 2,000 lifetime training wins last year. "With one horse. It's kind of crazy when you think back on it all."

Roy Chapman died in 2006 after battling emphysema for years, but his wife carries on the Someday racing/breeding operation with a small stable and two broodmares. She answers questions about Smarty Jones regularly and recently re-watched a 2005 biography from the Outdoor Life network.

"I had a lump in my throat and tears in my eyes, then I was laughing; I went from laughter to tears over and over again," she said. "Every step of the way we felt like we were somebody else, that this certainly can't be happening in our lives. It was the best medicine my husband had. They said it was lightning in a bottle, but it sure does keep you going for a while."

Stewart Elliott rode his first races in 1981 at Keystone – later Philadelphia Park and even later Parx Racing – and entered 2004 with six lifetime graded stakes wins. He won eight in 2004 alone.

"All the publicity, it was overwhelming really," said the 59-year-old, who rides mainly in Texas now and has won more than 5,665 races. "I'd never been in that position before. It made you realize the opportunity you had. It happens so fast when you're in it like we were. You can't explain it. It took a month to realize what had happened."

Smarty Jones reached beyond direct connections, appealing to racing fans, the Philadelphia sports community and the nation. Many credit the horse with ushering in Pennsylvania's slots legislation, which provided revenue to boost purses and breeding incentives.

STUART HAMAN

Pennsylvania-bred Smarty Jones won the 2004 Preakness by 11½ lengths, the largest margin in race history.

"... when you put the tack on him, he would transform. It would make you say it wasn't the same horse. He just swelled up, and looked bigger and better than he did standing in the stall or around the barn."

– Trainer John Servis, about early impressions of Smarty Jones

"You couldn't turn on the TV or the radio without hearing about Smarty Jones," said Rodney Eckenrode, owner of Equistar Training and Breeding, where Smarty Jones continues a stallion career at age 23. "It was just a great story. If we can ever come up with another horse that can do what he did for the non-racing community, it would be amazing. He brought so many people to the sport that were not involved at the time. You can't create that or pay for that."

Or can you?

Smarty Jones gets his name from Pat Chapman's family. Her mother used to tell a story about a nickname from her childhood – Smarty Jones – handed down by her grandfather.

He used to ask the young girl her name and she would reply, "Mildred Evelyn McNair."

Papa Jones would correct her and say, "No, your name's Smarty Jones."

A dozen years after the human Smarty Jones died, I'll Get Along delivered a foal on Mildred's birthday, Feb. 28. When it came time to name the colt, Pat Chapman wanted to honor her mother. Mildred wasn't going to work for a colt, so Smarty Jones it was.

Ten months later, that serendipity ran headlong into tragedy. Bob Camac – who bought I'll Get Along for the Chapmans, trained her to a dozen wins and suggested they breed her to Elusive Quality – and his wife Maryann were murdered by her son from a previous marriage.

Already scaling back their Thoroughbred operation, which included a win in the 1989 Maryland Hunt Cup with Uncle Merlin, because of Roy's health the Chapmans nearly sold everything in response to Camac's death. Bridlewood Farm's George Isaacs suggested they hang on to two yearlings. One was Smarty Jones, who soon impressed everyone at the Ocala, Fla., farm.

On the advice of their trainer Mark Reid, who had recently retired, the Chapmans sent the colt to Reid's former assistant Servis at Parx Racing (then called Philadelphia Park) in 2003.

Smarty Jones didn't exactly tout himself.

"When he first came in and I saw him, I wasn't impressed," said Servis. "I remember thinking, 'This is the horse they're all talking about?' But when you put the tack on him, he would transform. It would make you say it wasn't the same horse. He just swelled up, and looked bigger and better than he did standing in the stall or around the barn."

As he neared his debut in late July, Smarty Jones went for a routine trip to the starting gate. He reared up, hit his head and collapsed in a heap, blood pouring from his nose and forehead. Sent to Hogan Equine Clinic in New Jersey and facing a potential surgical procedure to remove his eye due to the massive swelling, Smarty Jones was diagnosed with fractures around an eye socket.

He missed six weeks of training. Upon the horse's return, Servis started over.

"I went slow, really slow, with the gate work," he said. "The first few times, I just took him to the gate and didn't even put him in. We just stood back there and watched horses break. We treated him like a first-timer."

A potential summer debut turned into late autumn, and Smarty Jones blitzed nine unsuspecting rivals in a Parx maiden special weight Nov. 9.

"I rode a lot for John and I would get on most of the horses and breeze them," said Elliott. "Him, I never did. I went to the paddock and the only thing John told me was to watch him in the gate, that he wasn't the best gate horse. That's all I got. He broke like a rocket, he ran like a rocket, I came back to the winner's circle and there were a hundred people, OK not a hundred, but a lot."

Elliott asked them, "Man where you been hiding this one?"

Thirteen days later, Smarty Jones made light work of the Pennsylvania Nursery Stakes – a 15-length score. Pat Chapman watched the 7-furlong race alongside Servis.

"Oh, no. Oh, no," Servis said as Smarty Jones rolled on the front end.

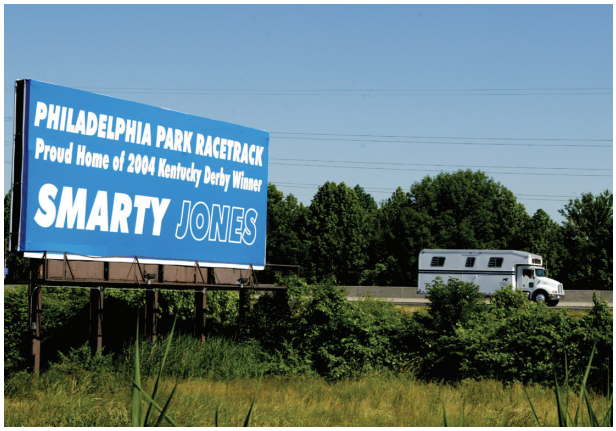
"The horse kept moving away and leaving everybody behind," Chapman said. "John thought he was going to tire out, but he never did."

Servis wanted to answer another question, maybe two, before letting expectations take over. Could Smarty Jones

KIM PRATT

Rodney Eckenrode and Smarty Jones shared a moment at Equistar, years after Smarty Jones Mania put the horse on everything from highway billboards to children's posters.

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.



KIM PRATT

LYDIA A. WILLIAMS
EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

Trainer John Servis fulfilled plenty of duties on the Triple Crown trail of 2004, aboard the stable pony Butterscotch, alongside the star of the show and exercise rider Pete Van Trump, and in front of scores of microphones.

relax early in a race? And could he navigate the demands of two turns? The Count Fleet Stakes, a mile and 70 yards on Aqueduct's inner track, looked like the ideal place to find out.

Sent off as the 2-5 favorite in his 3-year-old debut Jan. 3, 2004, Smarty Jones broke from the outside in a field of seven and sat just off Risky Trick and Sinister G for about 6 furlongs before galloping away by 5 lengths.

"It was the perfect opportunity to get a hold of him and see if he would set off horses," said Elliott. "He was so fast that when he broke, he'd be gone. I was not going to let him get going. I was going to grab him right away. He was outside and I could do that. He learned he didn't need to go to the lead right away to win."

The Derby Trail

Trainers don't often have to contemplate where to spend the winter with 2-year-old winners from Parx. Typically, the answer is right there at home in Bensalem with the Wawas, Philly accents and Pennsylvania Turnpike traffic rolling past.

Not with this horse. Servis considered the options and chose Oaklawn Park in Arkansas, for reasons practical and personal.

"I loved the distances of those preps, how they just stepped up to the Kentucky Derby," he said. "And my father [jockey turned steward Joe Servis] always talked very highly of Oaklawn. He was a huge fan."

Servis called the Chapmans with the idea.

"You're the boss," Roy Chapman told his trainer. "But you do realize we live in Florida, right?"

"Yes, I understand that," Servis said.

And Smarty Jones was soon on a van to Hot Springs.

"To their credit and I can't say this enough, everything I did they never questioned," Servis said of the Chapmans. "That Oaklawn thing about Florida was the only thing and that wasn't really a question. That was just Chappy. They let me do my thing."

After watching Smarty Jones try to run off with a local exercise rider, Servis convinced Pete Van Trump to relocate from Parx for the winter. That calmed the horse and the trainer, who plotted a path to the Derby via the 1-mile Southwest Feb. 28, the 1 1/16-mile Rebel March 20 and the 1 1/8-mile Arkansas Derby-G2 April 10. The Southwest convinced Servis he'd made the right decision.

"He was 75 percent at best and he got hooked at the head of the lane and dug in and won [by three-quarters of a length]," Servis said. "He was tired and he showed me he had some heart."

Servis told himself, "This horse is a real racehorse." With a chance at a big payday. The trainer knew nothing about it until he got there, but Oaklawn offered a $5 million bonus for sweeping the Rebel, Arkansas Derby and Kentucky Derby. Smarty Jones took his first step, and won for the fifth consecutive time, with a 3¼-length score over Purge in the Rebel. Smarty Jones handled his business again in the Arkansas Derby – building a 3-length lead in the stretch and scoring by 1½.

That's where it all came to focus for Elliott.

"I learned that horses are like people. I learned that horses, when they get good and get their confidence like that, can be very good. He really showed me what a horse will give you when they have their confidence. They don't all have his ability, but that confidence will go a long way to making them try as hard as they can."

Jockey Stewart Elliott, on what he learned from Smarty Jones

"You learn in this business to take it one step at a time; I do anyway," he said. "It was the first million-dollar race for me. I remember thinking, 'Let's win this one before we go to the Derby' and then, 'Man, here we are.' "

On to Louisville, and Baltimore

Smarty Jones went to Kentucky undefeated in six starts. He was the Derby favorite, but represented connections who'd never bred, owned, trained or ridden a Derby starter. Worried about construction at Churchill Downs, Servis took his horse to Keeneland after Oaklawn and promptly gave himself something new to worry about.

"He did not like that racetrack," he said. "Pete was coming back and saying he wasn't training as well as he was in Arkansas. I started noticing a little filling in his ankles. They weren't bothering him, but it just wasn't him. We were about a week into it and we got rain for two days. We went to the training track instead and Pete came back and said he trained like a monster. We kept him on the training track for three days and he turned completely around."

BARBARA D. LIVINGSTON

Smarty Jones and Stewart Elliott headed to the winner's circle after the Kentucky Derby.

Smarty Jones shipped to Churchill, breezed once and – sent off as the 4-1 favorite on a sloppy track – ousted 17 rivals in the 1¼-mile classic. The most anxious moments came well before the finish. Early, Smarty Jones was in the middle of a five-horse phalanx behind leader Lion Heart and feeling pressure on both sides.

"That's a cavalry charge and he wasn't a big horse, kind of a small horse, getting jostled around in there but that's what made him win the race," said Elliott. "He stayed in there for me. If he'd have backed out, that would have been the end of it."

STUART HAMAN

The 2004 Preakness winner's circle overflowed, owners Pat and Roy Chapman front and center.

On the backstretch, Lion Heart led. Smarty Jones was second and taking slop in his face thanks to Pollard's Vision to the outside.

"That horse was keeping me kind of pinned right behind Lion Heart," said Elliott. "It wasn't a terrible spot, but I wanted to get out of there."

Smarty Jones put his head in front of Pollard's Vision, eased out from behind the leader and jolted Elliott's confidence.

"About the five-eighths pole, he got on the bridle and got comfortable," said the jockey. "Right then, I knew it."

He didn't know he was going to win but thought, "Here's my horse, here's the horse I know."

Smarty Jones handled it from there, leaving the others on the turn, roaring into the stretch and tackling Lion Heart to win by 2¾ lengths.

"Crazy, crazy good," said Servis, who watched from a box along with the Chapmans, his wife Sherry and their sons Blane and Tyler, about the feeling. "It was a dream come true, something I'd dreamt about since I was a little kid. I tell everybody, people I know who own horses and stuff, that the most memorable thing of all was walking over for the Derby with my kids. Seeing the expressions on their faces is something I'll never forget."

The Servises and friends from Pennsylvania, Blase and Debbie DeRosa, left the press conference and other post-race hoopla as Derby winners. Also, rookies.

"So, what do you guys want to do for dinner?" Sherry asked.

"It's Derby Day, we don't have a reservation," John answered. "Every place in town is going to be mobbed. We're not getting in anywhere. We shouldn't even try."

They had pizza delivered to the lobby of the Brown Hotel.

The Chapmans ate at the Brown too, among with family and a slew of new friends.

"They let us have a room for a dinner," said Pat, "and I still remember the fans outside the door calling to us. Of course I wanted to talk to everybody. Eventually, we had to tell them we were exhausted."

The fun was just starting.

Driving home on I-64 near Lexington the next day, the Servises heard a car horn. John looked to make sure he didn't shut off anybody, but the mirror was clear. To the side, two people hung out the windows and cheered.

"Smarty Jones . . . Smarty Jones . . . Smarty Jones . . ." they called.

Servis asked his wife, "How the hell do they know who we are?"

The reactions only multiplied. At home, the Servises arrived to a yard decorated with signs, balloons and crepe paper. The next morning at the barn, Servis found barricades and – soon enough – a 40-person press contingent.

Two short weeks later, Smarty Jones ran away with the Preakness to put the Triple Crown in play.

A Trying Belmont

Undefeated, like 1977 Triple Crown winner Seattle Slew, Smarty Jones drew the attention of pretty much every media outlet that ever covered a horse race in advance of the Belmont Stakes. And many that didn't.

"Philadelphia, small-time connections, underdog, that kind of thing," said Elliott of the reasons for all the attention. "I don't know. I know he was the people's horse."

The story contained plenty of hooks – the catchy name, Camac's murder, the starting-gate accident, sheer ability and the grace of the people involved.

"Even before Smarty, my wife and I would say that this business has been so good to us, how are we ever going to give back?" said Servis. "I told her whatever interviews we could do, we're going to do. We're going to let people be part of it."

In the middle of an NHL playoff run by the Flyers, callers talked about Smarty Jones on Philadelphia sports radio. The horse made the local news. At the barn, letters from fans filled display boards. A crowd estimated at 8,500 showed up at Parx to watch him gallop. On Belmont Day, Amtrak's Northeast Regional stopped at 30th Street Station in Philadelphia and filled to capacity with people in Smarty Jones hats and shirts.

Belmont Park attracted 120,139 fans for the 2004 Belmont Stakes. They wore their shirts, carried their signs, cheered for their hero – and went home disappointed. Smarty Jones came up a length short after fighting off all challengers except 36-1 shot Birdstone.

Smarty Jones broke well from stall nine and found a spot outside Purge and Rock Hard Ten through the first half-mile in :48.65. The favorite pulled hard and drew alongside the first two on the backside.

"You know as a jockey when you ride enough races how it sets up," he said. "Is it setting up? It was not setting up. He was too rank."

Elliot remembers thinking, "This horse cannot go as far as we have to go this fast."

Hoping a little freedom would help his horse relax, Elliott gave Smarty Jones some rein and he went to the front alone. The peace didn't last. To the outside, Eddington matched the move. Along the rail, Rock Hard Ten re-engaged. Smarty Jones answered both calls, running the race's second half-mile in :46.79, and carried a 3½-length lead to the quarter pole. Behind him, Birdstone kept grinding. He drew even in the final 70 yards and swept past. Smarty Jones was 8 lengths clear of third-place Royal Assault.

> "Of course you're disappointed. It was very disappointing. But at the same time, especially now . . . Man, what a ride. You have to appreciate it. It was good, it could have been great."
>
> *– Jockey Stewart Elliott*

In the moment, defeat hurt. With time, it's not so bad.

"People always ask me about the Belmont but there was nothing I could have done differently," said Elliott. "I had already tried everything I could. I knew it probably wasn't going to work going into the first turn. I tried letting him out a little bit to see if he'd relax and come back to me. He just wanted to go faster.

"Of course you're disappointed. It was very disappointing. But at the same time, especially now . . . Man, what a ride. You have to appreciate it. It was good, it could have been great."

Servis might have known before Elliott.

"I breezed him seven-eighths and he breezed OK; he didn't breeze great," said the trainer of a pre-Belmont workout at Parx. "I was starting to see a little change in him. . . It was easier to see or know afterward. Mentally and physically, it was wearing on him. He wasn't striding out like he was, wasn't quite training like he was. His bloodwork was good, he was eating good, he was doing everything he should do. I think he was a little tired. They're racehorses. It's hard to keep them good for a long period of time and he was good for a long time.

"I think it just caught up to him. He ran great in the Belmont. There were a lot of people wanting him to win. He just didn't."

The End

Even 20 years later, it's difficult to process that Smarty Jones never raced again after losing for the first time. His

STUART HAMAN

LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

Birdstone surged past a tired Smarty Jones in the final yards of the Belmont. John Servis and Smarty Jones met the people afterward.

career lasted just seven months – eight consecutive wins, the lone loss and then retirement.

That was not the plan.

A stallion deal with Kentucky's Three Chimneys Farm gave the Chapmans control of Smarty Jones' racing career and they could have chosen any number of paths. The Pennsylvania Derby would have been some party. Servis gave Smarty Jones 45 days off. He tack-walked for a week before going to the track.

The first day, Smarty Jones jogged less than 10 steps before Servis let out an, "Aw, ----." The comeback was going to have to wait.

"He was on eggshells," Servis said. "Everything was cold and tight back at the barn, meaning there wasn't something immediate but there was something."

He called the Chapmans to tell them that Smarty Jones was, at minimum, going to need more time. Because he was

dealing with a Derby winner whose stud value was $39 million, Servis suggested a nuclear scan to rule out anything major. Dr. Rodney Belgrave at Mid-Atlantic Equine Medical Center diagnosed bone bruising in all four ankles. Further consultation with Dr. Larry Bramlage at Kentucky's Rood and Riddle led to a conference call and a decision nobody wanted to make.

"He didn't need surgery, but he was going to need time and with the right amount of time he could come back and run well," Servis said. Like everything in racing, however, there were no guarantees offered. The news broke in early August. Smarty Jones was retired.

Servis still ponders the idea of Smarty Jones as an older horse – bigger, stronger, smarter, more relaxed. "He'd have been special," the trainer said.

Elliott shares the opinion. "Off a break, it would have been fun to see him and man he would have been fun to ride," said the jockey. "He would have run on anything too, the grass, whatever you wanted him to do."

Chapman didn't have the hands-on experiences of Servis and Elliott, but sometimes lets herself think about what might have been.

"I wanted to unretire him for a little bit," she said. "We did thorough, thorough testing after three or four months and they found cartilage loss and the veterinarians recommended never having a rider on him to extend his life."

And what a life.

Three Chimneys set the stud fee at $100,000 and planned for a book of 110 mares. He was voted champion 3-year-old male of 2004. He was also one of the top five searched words/terms on Google for that year.

Smarty Jones stood at Three Chimneys for five seasons before moving to Pennsylvania's Ghost Ridge Farm in 2010. Next came four seasons at Northview Stallion Station's Pennsylvania division, then a return to Kentucky at Calumet Farm for three. He also shuttled to Uruguay for four seasons. In 2018, he returned to the Keystone State at Equistar. Eckenrode still can't quite believe it.

"I never would have dreamt a horse like him would land here," he said. "It's just a blessing to be part of his story. He's just a cool horse. We've gotten to be really good friends, me and that horse."

Smarty Jones looks and acts half his age. He will cover 25 or so mares this year, all the while making sure the people in his life are on point.

"We're all living in Smarty's world," said Eckenrode. "He tells us when he's ready to go out and when he's ready to come in. He hollers, both times. When the weather is nice, he's happy to be out. He doesn't care if there's rain, snow, or just a nice day with no bugs, he'll be outside."

KIM PRATT

Smarty Jones still shows off his stride at Equistar.

Nobody rides him, but Smarty Jones still flashes some of that world-class ability.

"He'll cut it up in the field pretty good," Eckenrode said. "He runs and rips and tears. It's fun to watch."

As it goes with many top racehorses, Smarty Jones never duplicated himself on the racetrack. Not that he is a failure. His Northern Hemisphere statistics include 343 winners, 29 stakes winners and 10 graded/group winners. That squad includes Grade 1 winner Centralinteligence, $940,000-earner Isn't He Clever, Grade 2 winners Old Time Hockey and Backtalk and regional stakes winners Someday Jones, John Jones and Concealed Identity. Australian-bred Better Life won three Group 1 races and was a four-time champion in Singapore. Smart D N A was a multiple champion in Panama. Last year, Aoife's Magic won her first four starts, including two stakes, as a 2-year-old.

"He's still popular with some people and we've had some really nice babies by him so far this year," said Eckenrode. "Older horses like him get forgotten a little bit. Everybody's interested in new horses."

Maybe not everybody. Equistar doesn't quite deal with the traffic Three Chimneys did in the early days, but Smarty Jones still resonates and attracts visitors. Chapman, Servis and Elliott field Smarty Jones questions with regularity and get into plenty of "I remember when" conversations.

Servis was talking about some home-improvement projects with a contractor in March and the guy dove right in.

"I remember Smarty Jones and all that," he said.

"Can you believe it's been 20 years?" Servis replied.

Hardly anyone can. ■

Riding for his Life

LONG CAREER AS JOCKEY IN MID-ATLANTIC DEFINED PINO

By Don Markus ■ *Photographs by Ryan Thompson & Nicole Thomas*

Long before Mario Pino decided to retire from a 44-year career as a jockey, he had a big, round number in mind with which to celebrate his going-out party – 7,000.

That's how many wins Pino figured he needed to finish among the top 10 all-time.

Pino ended his career with six trips to the winner's circle in the last four days of the 2021 season at Presque Isle Downs in Erie, Pa., to reach 7,001 victories. And retirement.

It was one of many moments in his career and life when Pino believed a little divine intervention played a part.

Now 62 and living full-time in South Florida since 2013, he looks back on his career in wonderment of how it all evolved. There were highs, lows, plenty of heady wins and more than a few heartbreaking defeats.

There were also two major scares, the most significant when Pino was diagnosed in 2006 with stage three colon cancer at age 44. There was another, toward the end of his career, when he was thrown from a horse and broke several vertebrae.

Sitting in the dining room of the Delray Beach home where he and his wife, Christina, have lived for four years, Pino said he always had a feeling that something bigger than himself was in control of his destiny, even when it came to finding his future wife.

"I believe in God, and I pray, but things happened in my life, crazy stuff, even down to meeting her," Pino said, motioning across the dining room table toward Christina one March morning. "Things happened in my life I had no control over, like it was divine whatever.

"I've worked hard to get to everything, but things would be guiding me and I didn't even know how I got there. Things would happen, almost like being lucky. Or blessed. How can so many things lead me to the right place, down to [beating] cancer?

"I was dead and buried, you know."

'The Next Pincay'

It isn't surprising that Pino found a career with horses. His father, Mario Sr., raised show horses on a Pennsylvania farm and gave his sons – Mario, Mike and Mark – chores that eventually led to all three following their father into the horse business.

Mike Pino turned to training, winning more than 2,000 races in a still active career in the Mid-Atlantic. Youngest brother Mark became a successful blacksmith.

Then there was Mario, skilled enough by age 13 to be given the responsibility of breaking some young horses at the farm. Luis Castaneda, an exercise rider at nearby Delaware Park, worked on the farm and took notice.

He suggested Pino become a jockey, as Castaneda's two brothers had done.

"I don't want to be a damn jockey," Mario replied. "I want to be a baseball player or something in sports."

Castaneda wasn't having it. "No, you're a jockey."

Two years later, Castaneda took the teenager to Delaware Park, got him a job cleaning stalls and had him watch morning workouts and afternoon races. Pino, who lied about his age to get working papers, saw the horses, their action, their athleticism, and saw his future.

"Wow, this is something I could do," he told himself. "This is my fate. It's outside, it's physical, I like riding horses, I've been around them. This could fit good."

> "I didn't want to just do it and be a flash in the pan. I've seen guys, the first years they're really good and then they fall off. A lot of them. I kind of stopped myself. I wanted to learn everything before I started doing it. I wanted to be consistent."
>
> *– Mario Pino, about the early years of his career*

Pino never returned to live on the farm or even go back to school. He went from Delaware Park to Penn National that fall and lived on the backside. He was small enough in terms of height to be a jockey, but his weight was a different story.

"I wasn't a light guy, I wasn't a natural lightweight," Pino said. "I was 112, 114 pounds then, way too big to be a jockey. I had to lose weight at a young age and hold it for 40 years. I got down to 98 pounds. I had to starve myself. I stayed there and tried to learn everything I could."

Pino followed Castaneda to New York, where his new mentor got Pino a job working for trainer Joe Cantey. While others continued to tell Pino he was too big, Castaneda saw potential.

"He said I was going to be the next Laffit Pincay," Pino said with a laugh.

Castaneda wasn't that far off. Pincay retired in 2003 with a then-record 9,530 wins. Pino eventually joined the legend in the top 10.

A perfectionist, Cantey told Pino that before he could become a jockey he had to learn to be a horseman. Cantey wanted Pino to measure distances in his mind, to break down races race and to read the demeanor of horses.

"That was embedded in my brain, so I could explain to trainers what's going on with the horses, how they're acting," Pino said. "Some [jockeys] don't know, they just use their physical ability to ride. It takes a lot of time to do that.

"It takes a lot of feel, so [Cantey] kept honing in on me. I would never get it at first: I would be going too fast, too slow. He was a tough guy to work for. He would be screaming at me coming back. You had to work from the bottom up."

After getting 14 mounts in the fall of 1977 and three more in the spring of 1978 – finishing third twice but toward the back of the pack in most of the others – Pino didn't try to get another ride for nearly six months.

"Personally, I didn't think I was ready," Pino said. "I didn't want to just do it and be a flash in the pan. I've seen guys, the first years they're really good and then they fall off. A lot of them. I kind of stopped myself. I wanted to learn everything before I started doing it. I wanted to be consistent."

It became the trademark of Pino's career.

On his second day of racing at Maryland's Bowie racetrack in January 1979, Pino won his first race by a nose and followed with two more the next day. He finished the year with 275 wins from 1,475 mounts (19 percent), was in the money for nearly half his rides and helped the owners of his horses earn a shade under $1.9 million in purses.

In time, Pino became one of the most successful jockeys in the Mid-Atlantic with multiple riding titles, national honors such as the Mike Venezia and George Woolf awards, and the respect of owners, trainers, fellow jockeys and fans on stages big and small.

Much of the success came after Pino's career, and life, were in jeopardy.

The Fight of His Life

A little more than a year before riding in his only Triple Crown races in 2007, Pino had the opportunity to ride another contender.

On Feb. 4, 2006, he and Sweetnorthernsaint won Laurel Park's Miracle Wood Stakes in a 10-length romp. Six weeks later in the Gotham-G3, the mount belonged to Kent Desormeaux and Sweetnorthernsaint finished third. Next, they dominated the Illinois Derby-G2. And by the time Sweetnorthernsaint started as the favorite in the 2006 Kentucky Derby-G1, Pino was back in Maryland after being diagnosed with stage three colon cancer.

All anyone in racing knew was that Pino had undergone hernia surgery in March and would miss six weeks. Pino and his wife kept the news of his cancer quiet, even from their family.

"It wasn't for sympathy," Christina Pino said.

Mostly, keeping the secret was to shield their three daughters, especially Danielle, the oldest. She was a senior at Centennial High in Ellicott City, Md., and her parents wanted her to go through with plans to attend college. She would eventually become the first of many in their two families to graduate from college.

DOUBLE J PHOTO (2)

A lifetime of achievements.

Clockwise from upper left: Mario Pino accepted Pimlico's leading apprentice award from Bill Passmore in 1979; Pino's George Woolf Memorial Award; win 7,000 (in progress and in the winner's circle) at Presque Isle Downs in 2021; his 2,500th win at Laurel Park in 1991.

COADY PHOTOGRAPHY (2)

"I was very calm when I rode. There were things that happened in races, I was nice and cool about. I didn't let it bother me instead of being too jacked up. To ride sometimes, that's the best way to be."

– Mario Pino, about riding races while undergoing chemotherapy treatment

When Pino checked into the hospital for a colon resection to have around two feet of his intestines removed, he did so under an assumed name. He later rode through six months of chemotherapy.

Comparing missing out on a Derby mount with the rest of Pino's life, the surgeon told Christina, "He might have lost the battle, but he's going to win the war."

Dr. Carole Miller, director of the cancer center at St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore, oversaw Pino's once-a-month chemotherapy treatments. Miller said Pino had a "substantial risk" of the cancer coming back and a second drug was added to hopefully prevent that.

"It's a great drug, but a side effect is that it can cause neuropathy, which is dysfunction in your fingers and toes," Miller said. "It can sometimes be disabling. He had [life-threatening] cancer and he wanted to get help and he wanted to be very aggressive."

Though Pino did suffer a little neuropathy, he was not deterred.

"He was going to go through it and come out the other end," Miller said. "On a scale of one to 10 in terms of chemotherapy this is a six or seven. It's pretty amazing that he could do it. He kept racing and racing, and he kept going and he did great."

Pino said there were days when he came to the track fatigued, or when he felt discomfort or pain in his hands or feet, but the moment he settled into the saddle, it was business as usual. In some ways, better.

"To be honest with you, it helped me," Pino said. "I kept busy. Once I got on the horses, my instincts took over. I felt better on the horse than walking around. It's a weird thing.

"I was very calm when I rode. There were things that happened in races, I was nice and cool about. I didn't let it bother me instead of being too jacked up. To ride sometimes, that's the best way to be. Some might say I could have won more. That wasn't the case."

During the year in which he was diagnosed and underwent chemotherapy, Pino won 21 percent of his races and finished in the top three 53 percent of the time – matching career highs – with his horses bringing in more than $6 million in purses. After winning his first Grade 1 stakes in 1980, his second full season as a jockey, he didn't win another until 2006 – a year that included a cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Pino said he often came home at night and told his wife how well he felt on the horses.

"You know when you're riding good," he said. "The horses do the running, don't get me wrong. The races were just as good or better than when I was normal."

Miller told Pino he could inspire others trying to balance fights with cancer and careers. She pushed for him to tell the story.

"You do this job that very few other people do," she told him, "and you do it so well."

The Pinos put his battle with cancer alongside the struggles jockeys overcome, such as alcohol addiction and eating disorders.

"They can find strength," Mario said. "I did well under those circumstances."

Christina said her husband's victory over cancer more than outweighed what became arguably the toughest defeat of his career – a second aboard Hard Spun in his only Derby mount in 2007.

"If it had meant his life or the Derby, we got the right part of the deal," she said. "I'm not a very religious person, nor is he, but we are religious. I believe in my heart he would have won the Derby and be dead. I don't feel cheated."

Twice since he finished his treatment and the cancer had gone into remission, the Pinos thought it had returned. Shortly after he had finished chemotherapy, a routine test

RICK BUCKLEY

Mario Pino and Hard Spun return after finishing third in the 2007 Preakness Stakes at Pimlico.

showed a spike in his white blood cell count. It was caused by medication for a sinus infection. Four years ago, there was blood in his urine, caused by a recent kidney injury.

By then, Pino's now three grown daughters knew what he had gone through in 2006.

"The kids had to relive it with us," Christina said of the second incident. "They went through every test because of the colon cancer. It was the scariest moment in my life. The tests he had for that, they wouldn't stop and they couldn't find anything."

Part of the reason the Pinos didn't follow Miller's advice and talk about the cancer sooner was Pino's Hall of Fame eligibility. He has been eligible for years, and discussed as a candidate, but has never appeared on the final ballot. They didn't want to, as Christina said, "play the cancer card," and see voters feel sympathy.

Mario Pino Career Highlights

Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
42,630	*7,001	6,410	5,987	$131,324,834

*10th all-time in North America

Graded Stakes Wins: 36

Grade 1 Wins: Hard Spun (King's Bishop, Saratoga, 2007); Wildcat Bettie B (Prioress, Belmont Park, 2006); Bishop's Ring (Delaware Oaks, Delaware Park, 1980)

Top Horses: Hard Spun (G1), Weather Vane (G3), Smart Alec (G3), Diabolical (G2), Smart 'N Noble (G2), Wood So (G2)

Honors/Awards: 2016 Mike Venezia Award (presented by New York Racing Association for sportsmanship, citizenship); 2013 George Woolf Memorial Award (presented by The Jockeys Guild for personal/professional conduct on and off track); Maryland Athletic Hall of Fame in 2012

10-Win Horses: Smart Alec: 15; Guy: 14; Weather Vane: 14; Missy's Music: 11; Scotch Heather: 11; Big Bid: 10; Fast Memory 10; Midnight Call 10

Maryland Million Wins: 16 (third all-time)

Statistics and other research provided by Equibase.

Coming Close

As Pino neared the end of chemotherapy, Jones asked the jockey to take a promising 2-year-old out for a 5-furlong breeze one morning at Delaware Park.

Pino knew a little about the unraced horse, yet left the introduction surprised.

"I took him to the starting gate one day, he didn't really know how to break, and three older horses came back there," Pino said. "This horse had never run (a race) before, he hardly got his gate card yet."

The three older horses broke from the gate quickly, leaving the 2-year old and Pino with dirt flying into their faces. Then the kickback cleared, and Pino felt his mount quicken.

"I just moved him from behind the dirt and he flew by them like they were standing still," Pino said. "He just went by those three horses like they weren't there.

"The lightbulb went off in his head that he was racing."

A big smile on his face, trainer Larry Jones rode out on a pony to get the jockey.

"Wow, look what kind of horse we got here," Jones told Pino.

A few weeks later, Hard Spun won his first race easily.

"He won by about 8 lengths, I never hit him with the whip and was easing him up around the 16th pole," Pino said. "I called Christina on the way home and told her, 'If there ever was a chance to ride a Derby horse, this is it.' "

Pino's Hall of Fame bid might have been secured had Hard Spun closed the deal at Churchill Downs. Pino and his horse led for much of the race before they were overtaken by Calvin Borel and Street Sense in the stretch.

"There were three other speed horses in the race and we felt like if they got in front of us, they could stop and we'd be trapped in a little box," said Hard Spun's trainer Larry Jones, who first teamed up with Pino at Delaware Park.

Aboard for five wins in Hard Spun's first six starts, Pino sent the Pennsylvania-bred to the front as Street Sense dropped back to 19th. Hard Spun still led on the final turn while Street Sense unfurled a long, rail-hugging rally. Borel finally came off the fence at the top of the stretch and they passed Hard Spun (on the outside) at the eighth pole to win by 2¼ lengths. Hard Spun hung on for second, well clear of the others.

Jones had half-jokingly warned Borel beforehand that he wasn't going to beat them by going along the inside, the jockey's trademark move that earned him the nickname "Bo-rail." Street Sense went inside almost every horse in the race, but outside of Hard Spun.

"When our horse started opening up on the field a little bit, I was getting excited," Jones said. "But I said, 'Here comes Street Sense.' And he did run us down. But then again, you've got to remember Curlin, as good as he was, he was third. I remember it vividly."

In the Preakness, Hard Spun finished third – 4 lengths out of the photo finish won by Curlin over Street Sense. Jones and owner Rick Porter changed to Garrett Gomez for the Belmont Stakes-G1 and Hard Spun finished fourth. Pino and Hard Spun reunited for four more races – seconds in the Haskell-G1 and Breeders' Cup Classic-G1 sandwiched around wins in the King's Bishop-G1 and Kentucky Cup Classic-G2.

Jones said that Hard Spun was unlucky to have been born in the same year as Street Sense and Curlin.

"That was an extremely good quality crop," Jones said. "If either one of those horses had been born in another year, they could have been the Triple Crown winner."

In that way, Pino's career compares to those of NBA greats Patrick Ewing and Charles Barkley, who never won a title playing in an era dominated by other players and teams.

Christina Pino, daughter of jockey-turned-trainer Luigi Gino, met her future husband when she was 14, started dating him at 17 and married him in 1986. She believes the narrative of his career would be different had he won the Derby.

"This conversation [about getting into the Hall of Fame] wouldn't even be happening if Hard Spun had won the Derby," she said. "He'd be in. That was the last box to check."

She also believes her husband was sometimes overlooked because he never promoted himself or his achievements.

"I just want somebody to say how talented he was," she said. "They've touched on everything but that, the whole

The State of Maryland
Athletic Hall of Fame
MARIO PINO
has been granted the State's highest athletic honor with induction into the Maryland Athletic Hall of Fame, in recognition of an outstanding achievement in the sport of
THOROUGHBRED HORSE RACING
November 8, 2012

Mario Pino's Florida home contains plenty of memorabilia from his long career as a jockey.

world. And when he got done riding at Presque Isle and I said to him, 'Your career is over now, you're done, why couldn't you toot your own horn?' And he said, 'Because that's not me and I'm not going to do it.' "

As proof, Christina brought up a YouTube clip from a seven-win day at Colonial Downs in 2002. "He said, 'I rode six good and one great.' "

Family Over Fame

The Hall of Fame includes jockeys who never won Triple Crown races. At the top of that list is Russell Baze, who raced primarily in the Pacific Northwest and Northern California and amassed a record 12,842 victories. He was inducted in 1999, midway through what became a 42-year career. Ramon Dominguez won 4,985 races, received three Eclipse Awards and set a single-season earnings record in 2012 before being forced to retire in 2013 due to a head injury. He joined the Hall in 2016. Last year, Corey Nakatani became a Hall of Famer without a classic win. He won 3,909 races won 10 Breeders' Cup races and captured 10 riding titles on the tough California circuit.

Of the 10 jockeys to win at least 7,000 races, three are not in the Hall of Fame. Perry Ouzts, still active at 69, won 7,422 races. Dave Gall, who retired in 1999 and died at age 79 in 2021, won 7,396. Neither rode in a Triple Crown race, and spent their careers on minor circuits – Ouzts in Ohio and Gall in Canada, California and Illinois.

Pino didn't regularly ride on the powerhouse New York or southern California circuits either, but his horses won $131 million in prize money to outdistance Ouzts ($51 million) and Gall ($25 million). Pino won 36 graded stakes compared to one for Gall and zero for Ouzts.

Mike Kane, who covered racing for decades and later served as the communications director for the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame, compares Pino's career to that of Borel, inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2013. Technically still active (with 10 rides this year), Borel has fewer victories (5,289), but leads Pino slightly by purse earnings, won four Triple Crown races and rode Horse of the Year Rachel Alexandra.

"They were two durable, very capable riders, who were dominant in their region," said Kane, a Hall of Fame voter. "Mario was a top rider on the Mid-Atlantic circuit and he chose to stay there, and he was really good at that. That was one of the top circuits. It's not like riding in Texas or somewhere else. The quality was better."

Jones believes Pino would already be in the Hall had he won the Derby or the Preakness in 2007, and also thinks Pino didn't get the recognition he was due or the better horses to ride since he raced primarily in Mid-Atlantic.

Pino isn't consumed by the comparisons. Asked where induction is on his list, he said, "It's not like I'm thirsty to be in the Hall of Fame. It's out of my hands, actually. Do I say I don't want to be in? No, I want to be in. It's no question, I want to be in. But it's not like I'm going crazy thinking about it."

Those who have known Pino throughout the years say the same thing. The main reason he stayed put, riding within a reasonable car ride from home, was to be with his wife and their three daughters.

"He was devoted to his family," Jones said. "His family meant more to him than his career. He was successful there, he could feed the family there and he wasn't worried about becoming the nation's best jockey or the most famous jockey. He took care of his family."

One year, Jones wanted Pino to join him at Oaklawn Park for the winter/spring season. But, as he did with similar offers to ride in New York and Florida, Pino declined. When the Maryland tracks closed, Pino moved his family to Richmond,

Va., so he could be close to Colonial Downs. He won riding titles there in 2000 and 2001.

"He always said to me, 'I want to be able to drive home [after racing that day]," said Christina. "Even though he had a house in Delaware, he would drive home [to Maryland] after riding. It was a three-hour round trip. He wanted to come home."

Toward the end of his career, while riding at Presque Isle, he would drive nearly six hours home for two days off. He did it for a decade.

"He would do it every single week and he never missed a week," Christina said.

Desormeaux raced mostly in Maryland for the first four years of his career and set the North American record for wins in a single season (598) before going to California. He then won seven Triple Crown races and was selected to the Hall of Fame in 2004. Edgar Prado spent 11 years in Maryland before leaving for New York in 2000. His victory in the 2002 Belmont on Sarava led to wins in the 2004 Belmont with Birdstone and the 2006 Derby on Barbaro. Those wins, and the move to a more prominent circuit, helped seal his Hall of Fame selection in 2008. Dominguez blazed a similar path. Years earlier, Chris McCarron did too.

Pino made his career in Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic and stayed. For 25 seasons, he rode at least 1,100 races. The worst year included 141 wins. He topped 200 wins 11 times. He ended 2003 with 5,305 lifetime wins and a firmly established reputation.

The next 10 seasons included the highs of Hard Spun and a career-best $7.9 million in purse earnings in 2007 and the lows of fewer mounts and less success. Some of it was by design, as he accepted fewer mounts and aimed for the spring/summer/fall. But in 2010, he won 67 races – the first time he didn't reach 100 in a single season.

Pino and his wife and youngest daughter moved to Florida in 2013 and Christina wasn't surprised when her husband rode at Gulfstream Park. He said it was to get ready for Presque Isle, but his wife believes it was deeper than that.

"He wasn't ready to give it up," she said. "He had a burning desire that nobody could fill, not even me and the kids."

She told him, "I can't fill what you're missing."

By 2019, Pino neared his goal of 10th all-time and, as a result, approached the brink of 7,000 career wins.

"Not only in the horse racing business, you want to set a goal of where you want it to end, and where do you want to reach," Prado said. "I think Mario wanted to accomplish as much as he can, but his main goal was to reach 7,000."

"He got to 10th," Christina said. "Then he told me, 'I am going to call it at 7,000.' "

She added another outer limit. "I never want you to be a 60-year-old jockey riding horses," Christina told her husband.

At 58, he finished 2019 with 6,940 wins, within reach of the milestone until the Covid-19 pandemic interrupted racetrack schedules in 2020. Pino won a career-low 21 races that year, riding just 212 from June through October. He pressed on to 2021, cranking up in Florida in the spring and heading to Presque Isle in July, but knew he was running out of time. Pino kept his weight down, stayed fit by running, doing yoga, playing tennis and eventually pickleball, and focused on finishing his career with a historic mount.

The thought of returning for 2022 wasn't appealing. Then the winning started.

After going 4-for-60 to start the year, he won seven races in August. September brought 16. With doubles Oct. 6 and 7, he reached to 6,993, but was still five wins shy of 7,000 with four days to go at the meet.

Baby Dragon rallied from last to win Oct. 18. The next night, Runaway Star won the second race and Boomin Goose delivered in the seventh. Two to go. Christina and the kids planned to surprise Mario on the last day. He scuttled the celebration by getting to 7,000 a day early – winning a $6,250 claimer with the favored Enjoy the Music to complete a double on the Oct. 20 card after winning a tight photo two races earlier with Gucci Gal.

"[Victory] 6,999 should never have happened because my kids were going to be there the next day," Christina said. "But the ride was so good that he got 6,999 by one hair follicle; 7,000 happened two races later."

On the final card of the meet – and his career – he rode eight races. He won the second aboard Shakin It Up Larry for owner/trainer Randall Russell and went out for good with a fourth aboard Homemade Moonshine in the ninth race.

It was a fitting end – at a track that didn't exist when he started – to a long, unparalleled career. Pino put the whole final chapter into perspective: "The last 1,000 were so hard."

Easy Rider

Throughout his career, Pino was known for more than consistency and skill. It was also his class, and the way he treated others in his profession. As a result, the respect many have for Pino extends well beyond what he did on the track.

"What I admired about him the most was what a wonderful person he was," Jones said. "I've talked to people in the jockey room, the silks guys. They said if there was a fight going on in the jockey room, which does happen, Pino was

never involved. If something happened on the track, he would calmly talk to someone."

Said Prado, "When he rode, he used a few tricks, but he never used the maximum."

Prado can remember only one instance in which Pino lost his cool, getting into another jockey's face and yelling. Even that ended differently than many similar confrontations.

"He said, 'Don't do that again – please!' " Prado recalled with a laugh. "He never talks, he never says anything, He never complains."

Said Pino, "If you always keep yourself in a classy way, good things happen. You can't get a [bad] reputation. You got to work. You got to keep yourself healthy."

For the most part, Pino used his athletic ability to avoid serious injury. Prado called his former Maryland rival among the best athletes in any jockeys' room.

Though he suffered his share of broken bones and concussions, none kept him off horses for long.

Prado said that on many instances, Pino would "bounce right up" after being thrown from a horse. The one exception came late in his career, at Presque Isle.

This time, no amount of the yoga he practiced for 20 years to keep himself flexible helped. A horse ahead of him broke down, and his mount ran straight into the injured animal. Pino was thrown over the top of both.

Pino said he had an out-of-body experience, with no pain and only facial images his three daughters and his wife in his mind. A sense of calm came over him.

"I think I might have died for a second, I felt so good," he said. "You hear all these stories of people dying and they see stuff. I saw some lights and I thought, 'God, why do I feel so good?' I didn't even know I fell."

Suddenly, Pino felt a hand pushing on him and the pain came in waves.

"I didn't get up that time," said Pino, who had fractured several bones in his back. "I couldn't even move."

He was only out of commission for a short time, as he continued his pursuit for 7,000.

Over the years, several of Pino's agents – he had around a dozen – and more than a few trainers wanted him to leave for bigger markets. Pino admits that, early in his career, it was one of his goals.

"All along in my life, when I started riding, I always thought I was going to start [in the Mid-Atlantic], and go to a bigger circuit, like New York or California," he said. "That was my thought. Everybody thinks like that. When I was doing well and then meeting [Christina] and then having kids there and racing was good in Maryland. The money was good."

Christina and Mario Pino are now avid pickleball players.

When Pino was inducted into the Maryland Athletic Hall of Fame in 2012, he looked at his wife in the crowd and said, "With you there in Erie by my side, I can win 7,000." Pino used the same words a year later when he received the George Woolf Award, a Jockeys' Guild honor bestowed by fellow riders.

The 7,000-win milestone compares to baseball's 3,000 hits, 500 home runs and 300 wins as a pitcher. But numbers don't automatically get players to Cooperstown, either.

Only 63 miles separate baseball's Hall of Fame from racing's in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., but a trip there for the Pinos, their family, friends and fans is not yet in the offing.

"Is there a magic number?" Kane said of what qualifies jockeys for the Hall of Fame. "Anybody who wins 7,000 races knows how to ride, is durable and has been capable for a long period of time. How many people have done that in their careers? It's a small number . . . Anybody who's covered horse racing for the last 50 years knows who he is. He's certainly acknowledged for being a very capable guy who's had a long, solid, good career."

For now, that will more than do. ■

Four Sale

VIRGINIA-BASED MEYERS TAKES 2-YEAR-OLD CONSIGNMENT TO FASIG-TIPTON

Story and photographs by Sean Clancy

Madison Meyers asked the first question.

"You're writing about someone with four horses in the sale. . .?"

Blonde hair pulled up and back in a bun, sunglasses propped above her forehead, in a navy Ballyerin Racing pullover and pink Hokas, the 39-year-old trainer walked through the center of her old-school, wood-planked, wood-colored barn at the Middleburg Training Center and started an all show April 9.

"This is an Audible filly. . ."

"This is an Honor A. P., New York-bred. Tim Keefe trained the dam. . ."

"This is an Astern. The Audible and Astern are Kentucky-breds. I think he might work well. . ."

"This is a Maryland-bred, Instagrand. A half to Take a Hint, that was a nice little update. . ."

"Filly, filly. Colt, colt."

And that's the tour. Four horses consigned to the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-year-old sale May 20-21. There in the 556-strong catalogue, tucked between the established stalwarts – Brennan, De Meric, Frommer, Wavertree, Woods, et al. – is Ballyerin Racing, Agent. For the first time, Meyers and her husband, 2016 champion steeplechase jockey Kieran Norris, bring four horses to the Timonium 2-year-old sale.

It's a natural fit.

With three barns and 60 horses – about 40 of them 2-year-olds – bedded deep in the southwestern corner of the historic training center in Virginia, Meyers adds a new element to the breaking, training, certifying business that she and her husband have built into a local standby. With the advent of the Virginia-Certified Thoroughbred Program, started in 2017, and the revitalization of the Middleburg Training Center when Chuck Kuhn bought the 150-acre facility in 2018, Ballyerin has grown and flourished. They started with a cobbled-together dozen horses in half a barn six years ago and now contentedly manage three full barns.

"What has been a model in Kentucky and in Florida of having pre-trainers has been adopted in this area more because of the certified program," Meyers said. "People are realizing, 'Oh in the six months my horse can get this far along.' Rather than getting 45 days into the horse and sending it into the track, you have the opportunity to have a horse broken and pre-trained, and if the horse is up to it, breezing three-eighths and coming out of the gate. And the trainer is getting a horse that they're happy to have to fill a stall rather than having one that's still getting legged up for months. That's been the case in Kentucky and Florida, but it hasn't been the norm in this area. The certified program has helped people understand it."

With the certified program mastered and a training business growing, Meyers and Norris added another shingle this year. The ambitious couple will hang their blue and gray stall plaques, polish their brass name plates and take full responsibility of their product at the upcoming Maryland sale.

"We have prepped six or eight of them for the sale in the past. They've basically left here and gone straight to the sale so I was like, 'Why aren't we finishing the job?' " Meyers said. "They've all had good days there. They haven't all gone on to be world beaters and I can't help that, but they've all had good

"We've had so many 2-year-olds come through our hands that we've honed how to develop them. That's taken time and mistakes have been made. We have gotten an opportunity to have a lot of really well-bred horses and some not really-well bred horses and some really well-behaved horses and some really not well-behaved horses and some with legs turned sideways and some that were perfect. We've learned how to develop each kind."

– Madison Meyers

breeze days and they've all sold for what they needed to sell for. I was like, 'Let's give it a whirl.' "

Three conversations helped Meyers take that whirl.

"I have an owner who pushed me into it a bit," Meyers said while watching the quartet gallop around the dirt oval. "He wanted to leave them here. We had talked about it for a couple of years. Actually, we were sort of like wanting to do it but hadn't taken the leap. There's not a lot of pressure on this. It's more like, 'Let's give it a try.' "

First conversation completed and first box checked.

Now for the second. Meyers called her friend Gene Recio and asked the Ocala-based consignor and lifelong horseman about what he thought of her handing out cards in front of a consignment in May.

"Gene, what do you think I should do?"

Recio didn't hesitate.

"Madison, why on Earth would you not to do it?"

"What if it flops?"

"It won't flop," Recio said. "And what if you run last in a race? It happens. Just do it. What I can tell you, there is no point in taking them that far and not finishing the job. That's a thankless job."

Two calls. Two confirmations.

The third was actually a retrospective one but an important one.

About four years ago, Maryland-based trainer Ferris Allen called Meyers after seeing a filly breeze well and act cool under the pressure of the Maryland sale.

"I heard you prepped this horse," Allen said. "That's why I want to buy her, I know she's not beat up."

Thinking back to that conversation sealed the deal.

With supportive owners, friends and clients pushing Meyers to add a service to her menu, she jumped at the opportunity. The four prospective horses fell into the same routine as the other 2-year-olds in her care while getting Virginia certified. Meyers began adding solo breezes, perhaps a pair of blinkers, in early April but hasn't altered much.

Back to one of those conversations.

"Do what you normally do," Recio advised.

Meyers listened.

"When they're here for that six-month period, people want them three-eighths fit and coming out of the gate, so we haven't changed much really," Meyers said. "I want these horses to not be beat up. They're not going to be buzzed up to go an eighth of a mile, they'll know how to work well and to gallop out. They can go out there and do their thing and I guess the big thing is hoping they come together at the right point. I don't think being super hard on them just to get them there is going to behoove us."

Meyers, born and raised in Lexington, Ky., and Norris, born and raised in County Waterford, Ireland, met in 2011 when she was an assistant trainer and needed an exercise rider at Jimmy Baker's barn in Saratoga. Norris answered the call, walked in the barn and they've been together ever since. They followed his reignited steeplechase dream to Tom Voss' farm in Maryland and then to Richard Valentine's barn at Whitewood in Virginia. Meyers owned and operated an equine therapy business while Norris gradually climbed the ladder in jump racing, earning a National Steeplechase Association title in 2016. They got married in 2017. He retired in 2020. Daughter Charlotte arrived a few months later. Vivian in 2022. And now 60 horses are along for the ride.

"It's grown and grown and grown. The certified program has helped for sure. We also are trying to expand the racehorse side of things," Meyers said. "We aren't going to stop doing everything we're doing and do the 2-year-old sales. But it's a good add-on and in a sense, we're already doing it. It just opens other doors. It's an option.

Fasig-Tipton eyes another big May

In looking to extend its million-dollar streak to 10 years, Fasig-Tipton Midlantic produced a catalogue of 556 horses for the annual May sale of 2-year-olds May 20-21 at Timonium, Md.

The book includes the first 2-year-olds from stallions Authentic, Tiz the Law, Tom's d'Etat, Improbable, Honor A. P., Promises Fulfilled, War of Will and others and – as usual – a slew of standout pedigrees that will no doubt appeal to some of the biggest names in the business.

Recent sales-toppers include the record $3.55 million paid for Hejazi in 2022. The now 4-year-old Bernardini colt has won twice, placed in two Grade 1 stakes and was fourth in his only start of 2024 (Gulfstream Park's Grade 3 Fred Hooper in January). Vinco, the 2021 topper at $1.5 million, broke his maiden last fall and was breezing at Churchill Downs in April for a 2024 return.

Gamine cost $1.8 million in 2019 and turned into a champion – winning an Eclipse Award as champion female sprinter of 2020 for Marylander Michael Lund Petersen. She made the lofty pricetag seem like a bargain by bringing $7 million (in foal to Quality Road) at Fasig-Tipton's November sale in 2022. Petersen turned a similar feat with Faiza, a $725,000 purchase in 2022 who went on to win five of six (four graded stakes) and sell for $4 million last fall.

Expect more fireworks this year if for no other reason than you have to go back to 2014 to find a sales-topper who reached just six figures.

Last year's graduates include multiple Grade 3 winner Kinza, Maryland stakes winners Brocknardini and Roanan Goddess, recent California debut winner In Theory and Dubai Group 3 winner Mendelssohn Bay. The biggest newsmaker of 2023 was 2022 graduate Mage. The son of Good Magic cost $290,000 at Timonium and won last year's Kentucky Derby-G1.

As usual, the 2024 leaders could come from anywhere. Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds sold three of the last 10 sales-toppers, and brings a dozen this year including two Justify colts and a filly and a colt by Authentic. Pick View's consignment goes 21 deep while SBM Training and Sales entered 19. Sequel Bloodstock, which sold Mage, targeted 13 horses for the sale. Tom McCrocklin's consignment, which sold 27 in 2023, included 33 in this year's group. De Meric Sales led all consignors by gross last year and could be involved again with a squad of 24. Top Line Sales aimed 28 horses at the sale, while Pennsylvania's Crane Thoroughbreds plans to send 18.

A quick pedigree skim included a half-brother to Mid-Atlantic stakes winner Nimitz Class, a half-sister to Grade 1 winner Just One Time, a half-brother to last year's Breeders' Cup Classic-G1 winner White Abarrio, the second foal out of millionaire New York-bred mare Highway Star, a colt out of a stakes-winning half-sister to Arrogate, a half-brother to regional standouts Street Lute and Alottahope, and a half-brother to Grade 1 winner Timberlake.

The under tack show is May 14-16. ■

Meyers began the organic process of training horses in 2014. One starter that year. Two the next. One in 2016. Six, nine, 26, 28. . . to 86 starts in 2022 and 69 last year. She's won 28 races from 303 starts. The big horse has been Grateful Bred. The turf sprinter has won five races, including the Meadow Stable Stakes at Colonial Downs and Maryland Million Turf Sprint in 2021. Bred by Gordie Keys, the son of Great Notion has earned $336,395 and returns for his 8-year-old season. Meyers took over the ownership after Keys died last year.

Grateful Bred is one of about 16 racehorses tucked within the 60-horse roster.

"We'd like to pick up on that. The breakers are our bread and butters and we're trying to make a go of the racehorses," Meyers said. "The lightest time is the dead of summer, but it doesn't ever get that low. We get some older horses to leg up

Madison Meyers greets a Maryland-bred Instagrand colt and rider Rob Massey while a Kentucky-bred Audible filly and Forest Stone await their turn at Virginia's Middleburg Training Center.

and the racing gets busy in the summer. A lot of turf horses to focus on."

On the fourth set of a cool morning in April, the four sales horses had her focus.

Meyers ran her hands down each of their front legs before they meandered under the long-form oak trees and through the spread-out barns to the track. Settled and composed, the two colts and two fillies jogged the wrong way to the half-mile pole, slowed to a walk at the revamped clockers' tower. There, they stood and waited. Four horses, four riders, four goals.

Forest Stone adjusted her stirrups and guided the Honor A. P. filly in a circle before settling along the outside rail. Norris, riding long and light, confirmed the instructions aboard the Audible filly. Rob Massey sat still and quiet, like he did for all those years for Kiaran McLaughlin and Todd Pletcher, aboard the Instagrand colt. Yordi Figueroa allowed the Astern (Aus) colt to bow his neck and paw the ground before gently convincing him to stand still.

One by one, they cantered off, a mile and a half to gallop this morning and another six weeks to sales day.

"They're coming together. Audible has had a good year. It's nice to have an Instagrand and Honor A. P. as first-year sires. The Astern should be quick," Meyers said. "If we get them as fit and as far along as the horses we send out to the racetrack, they're going to gallop out well because they know how to keep going past an eighth of a mile. Maybe a little bit of a different approach but there's no pressure."

At end of the morning, Meyers, trainer of 60, mother of two, climbed next to a dark bay filly ridden by her husband in the four-horse gate tucked into the far chute of the track. Meyers pushed the filly to change her balance and touch her tail to the back of the stall. Satisfied, she stroked the filly's neck and instructed her assistant to flop the doors.

The filly launched confidently out of the gate and Meyers drove back to her barn.

"Four is a perfect number. I didn't want to start with eight or 10 horses. I wanted to pay attention to these guys and do it right," Meyers said. "I love this time of year. You watch them turn from fuzzy little babies into racehorses." ■

Work. Horse.

Your favorite barn buddy is here.

A new John Deere Gator™ Utility Vehicle is the answer to all barn chores. From cleaning stalls and feeding the horses, to a comfortable seat for the trainer who does-the-most.

We have an extensive line-up of 2-, 3-, and 4-passenger work horses specifically designed for you.

To learn more about how you can save up to 28% on new John Deere equipment, call 1-866-678-4289 or visit JohnDeere.com/Equine today!

SCAN ME

NTRA

EQUINE DISCOUNTS

A Big Day

MCGINNES-BREDS TAKE A HINT, TOO MANY KISSES SWEEP MARYLAND-BRED STAKES

By John Piassek

Anyone who follows Maryland racing knows the McGinnes name. Charles and Cynthia have bred horses at their Thornmar Farm in Chestertown for more than 50 years, and their success continued March 16 at Laurel Park, when McGinnes-breds swept both Maryland-restricted stakes.

Take a Hint, by the late Northview stallion Bandbox out of second-generation Thornmar mare Fancy Diamond, won the Not For Love for males. One race later, Too Many Kisses, a half-sister to graded stakes winner Still Having Fun and co-bred by her trainer, Tim Keefe, came from off the pace to win the Conniver for fillies and mares. Cynthia also co-owns her with Francis Clemens.

Take a Hint's story began at the 2002 Midlantic December mixed sale, when Thornmar purchased the stakes-winning Island Whirl mare Know B's, in foal to Mr. Nugget, for $5,000. The founding principle of Thornmar's breeding philosophy is to breed only stallions and broodmares with correct knees, and Know B's fit the bill.

"That's one thing we will not do, we won't breed a mare, if we can help it, who doesn't have good knees, because that seems to be the one thing that is really important to keep a horse sound," said Cynthia. "I know it may not sound like the best thing to breed a horse by, but if they don't have straight front legs, they're not going to be able to stay sound for long. And you'd be surprised at how many mares and stallions are bred that aren't straight in front."

The Mr. Nugget foal, a filly named Ronnigan, sold for $24,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale. Her next foal was a daughter of Eastern Echo who brought $18,000 as a yearling at the 2005 Midlantic fall sale. Named Fancy Diamond, she enjoyed a 16-race career with seven wins, including the 2009 Conniver, and earned $276,695. When she appeared at the Keeneland November breeding stock sale in 2010 carrying her first foal, the McGinneses added her back into the fold.

"We do that more than you think. I guess you could say my mantra of breeding is, never give up on a good family," said Cynthia. "If a horse we bred and sold turns out to be a decent racehorse, or maybe not even that, if we can afford them, and it works out, we tend to buy them back and breed them. We like to keep the family."

The pricetag turned out to be $55,000. Fancy Diamond returned instant dividends, as the foal she was carrying, the Ghostzapper colt Dickens, sold for $90,000 as a yearling in 2012. Eight years later, she delivered a gray son of Bandbox at Thornmar, named Take a Hint.

The McGinneses prefer to name their horses, and Take a Hint's name comes from wordplay stemming from his dam. "I thought of it like a girl telling her boyfriend, 'Take a hint, I want a ring,' like a fancy diamond," said Cynthia.

Siblings such as stakes-placed Return the Ring and winners Letmebethe One and Please Marry Me keep up the theme. Cynthia was always fond of young Take a Hint, considering him strong and attractive with a resemblance to his sire. At the 2021 Midlantic fall yearling sale, trainer Gary Capuano concurred and spent $22,000 on behalf of longtime client Larry Fowler and Fowler's friend John Hazard, who race as 57 Strong.

Though he's mellowed out now, Take a Hint was rambunctious as a young horse.

JIM MCCUE

Take a Hint coasts home in the Not For Love, one of two stakes wins for breeders Charles and Cynthia McGinnes at Laurel March 16.

"As a 2-year-old, we used to call him Mike Tyson," Capuano said. "He used to do some boxing with his handlers."

Take a Hint finished second in two starts as a 2-year-old, then went to the sidelines.

"He had a couple little issues, and we figured we'd give him some time off," said Capuano. "We fixed him up and he's been pretty good ever since."

After a 10-month layoff, Take a Hint returned last spring, and broke his maiden first off the bench at Delaware Park June 17. He won again next out, but soon started a streak where he finished second or third in six races. Once he matured and began to settle early, rather than getting rank and costing himself energy, he began to hit his best stride.

In his first four starts this year, he recorded two allowance wins and a sharp 1¼-length score in the Not For Love, where he came from just off the pace and pounced three wide. The win boosted his career earnings to $209,819 and extended his in-the-money streak to 14.

"He's been really consistent. He runs hard every time," said Capuano. "His performance [in the Not For Love] was great. He came into the race real good, and came out of the race real good. He keeps maturing and getting a bit better."

One race later, Too Many Kisses, a mare with deep Thornmar roots, took to the track for the Conniver. The McGinneses purchased her fourth dam, Ceylon Burgoo, for $4,900 at the 1988 Midlantic December mixed sale. They bred her to Kentucky Derby-winning Gainesway stallion Cannonade for 1991 and got a filly named Foolish Kisses. Foolish Kisses was sold privately to Phillip Torsney, who campaigned Horatius, later a top Thornmar stallion whose prog-

> "She was a little immature, not as precocious as Still Having Fun, but she was a beautiful filly and a good mover. It just took awhile for her to figure things out and mature."
>
> *– Trainer and co-breeder Tim Keefe, about stakes winner Too Many Kisses*

eny included racing Hall of Famer Safely Kept. Foolish Kisses looked like she was on the road to stardom when she won her first three starts, including the 1994 Miss Preakness, by a combined 13¾ lengths. Her career ended after sustaining an injury in her fourth start, the Miss Woodford at Monmouth Park. Torsney kept her as a broodmare, and she went on to produce graded winner Gotaghostofachance, stakes winners I'mtoogoodtobetrue, Anofficerandalady and Folly May Pay, and six other winners. When Torsney wound down his breeding operation in the mid-2000s, he gave Foolish Kisses to the McGinneses.

Foolish Kisses' 2003 foal, the Torsney-bred Numerous filly Bushel and a Peck, went unraced due to cysts in her feet. The McGinneses purchased her for $12,000 at the 2006 Midlantic December mixed sale, and her first foal, a Dehere filly named Casual Kiss, looked promising. Agent Buzz Chace purchased her for Arnold Heft at the 2009 Midlantic fall yearling sale, and she was sent to Keefe. She suffered a major setback when she cracked her pelvis in a starting gate accident. She eventually returned to training, but recurring issues forced her retirement before she could race.

With her racing career over and a broodmare career in doubt due to the pelvis injury, Casual Kiss faced an uncertain future.

"Tim said, 'We can't put her in a sale, what can we do with her?' " Cynthia said. "I said, 'We'll take her back, Tim, we'll try [to breed her]. She'll come home and you don't have to worry about it.' He was able to tell Arnie that she'd have a good home."

For Keefe's role in bringing her home, he's named a co-breeder on each of her foals.

The McGinneses mated her to Scipion and were happy when the delivery of a filly named Honey Bun went off without a hitch. "When she had her first foal, she didn't have any trouble, and we knew Scipion could get great, big, heavy-boned foals," said Cynthia. "We thought we might have a shot."

That proved to be an understatement. Her second foal, Still Having Fun, won three stakes, including the 2018 Woody Stephens-G2, and earned $641,137 in 37 starts. On the strength of his accomplishments, Casual Kiss was named 2018 Maryland Broodmare of the Year.

"He was by Old Fashioned, who we had a share in, and we didn't want to not use it," said Cynthia. "The mare we were going to send down to Kentucky to breed to him had a difficult foaling, so we didn't want to send her, and the only mare we had left was Casual Kiss. We sent her down so we could use the season, and she got in foal right away, and that was Still Having Fun."

Still Having Fun's success caught the eye of Juddmonte Farms, which reached out about breeding Casual Kiss to Arrogate. The 2016 Eclipse Award winner was a son of Unbridled's Song, as was Old Fashioned, so Juddmonte thought Casual Kiss would be a good match. The McGinneses agreed, and the result was Too Many Kisses, foaled Feb. 6, 2020.

Cynthia decided not to sell her, citing a desire to keep a filly from that family. She brought in Clemens, a longtime friend and retired Baltimore City Fire Department battalion chief, as a co-owner, and sent her to Keefe's barn.

"Tim had so many horses in his barn with the name Kiss, it was getting him confused," said Cynthia. "I decided we should name her Too Many Kisses."

"We certainly had high expectations for her, because of Still Having Fun," said Keefe. "She was a little immature, not as precocious as Still Having Fun, but she was a beautiful filly and a good mover. It just took awhile for her to figure things out and mature."

"She's a very typical Arrogate," said Cynthia. "They definitely take a little time. Her problems were never physical; she was always an incredible athlete and everything, but she

JERRY DZIERWINSKI

Forest Boyce plays a key role in the success of Too Many Kisses, winner of the Conniver in her stakes debut.

was quite flighty, and her brain didn't function that well. She would get excited about everything."

Keefe and Cynthia took the patient route with Too Many Kisses, working her into race shape with regular rider Forest Boyce aboard in the mornings. The jockey helped crack the code on getting the filly to calm down.

"Forest has worked with her forever, and she said to Tim, 'The way to work with this filly is to get her to think it's no big deal. Breaking out of the starting gate, nothing is a big deal, because if she thinks it's a big deal, she'll lose her mind,' " said Cynthia.

That proved to be sound advice, and Too Many Kisses was ready for her debut at Laurel June 16, 2023. She raced wide throughout and faded to fourth but got better with each start. Racing solely at Laurel, she broke her maiden at fourth asking Sept. 30, taking a 6-furlong maiden special weight by three-quarters of a length.

"We had a little trouble getting her into the right races at the right distances," said Keefe. "We were a little bit frustrated, but Cynthia told me to take my time, don't be in any hurry, and she'll reward us."

Second in a first-level allowance Oct. 29, behind future stakes winner Charming Way, Too Many Kisses was given a break.

"There was nothing wrong with her, we just felt like she was a little light, I've always had trouble keeping weight on her,

and she's always been hard on herself galloping," said Keefe. "We just thought we'd give her a little time, back off a little bit, and give her some time to regroup."

The strategy proved helpful. Too Many Kisses started 2024 with a last-to-first victory in a first-level Maryland-restricted allowance Feb. 17. That set her up well for the Conniver, where she once again came from well off the pace to win by 1¼ lengths going away.

"I thought her effort was awesome," said Keefe. "I thought the ride was great. Forest fits her to a T. She's done a great job working with her in the morning and figuring out her idiosyncrasies. She lets her be patient early and not rush her. I think she broke last in the Conniver, and Forest was comfortable just sitting back there and being patient. At the eighth pole, it looked like we'd be second or third, and I was happy with that, but she kept grinding it out and drew off a little bit at the end."

Fancy Diamond was not bred for 2023, and was expecting a foal by Frosted as of press time. Casual Kiss, meanwhile, produced a Midshipman colt named Make It Quick last year and was bred to Great Notion for 2024.

LAUREL NOTES: Capuano picked up another stakes win later on the March 16 card, as Fowler-owned Shaft's Bullet won the Harrison Johnson Memorial. The 5-year-old gelding improved to 5-for-9 lifetime with earnings of $225,580 . . . Laurel hosted two stakes for 3-year-olds March 23. Maryland-bred Determined Driver moved to the front on the turn and drew off to win the Beyond the Wire by 12½ lengths for Matt Dorman, who breeds under 2500 Determined Stud and races under D Hatman Thoroughbreds. Boyce was aboard for trainer Phil Schoenthal (read more in the *Maryland Horse* newsletter). . . One race later, Capuano-trained Copper Tax won the Private Terms in a blanket finish for his sixth victory and third stakes triumph. He's owned by Rose Petal Stables and was ridden by J.G. Torrealba, who relocated to Maryland from California this winter and collected his first stakes win in the Private Terms . . . Jamie Ness won his second consecutive winter meeting training title with 28 wins. Brittany Russell finished second with 24, with Kieron Magee was third with 21 . . . Ness' go-to rider, Jaime Rodriguez, won the riding title with 50 victories, compared to 29 for runner-up Jeiron Barbosa. ■

8 wins from 9 starts!
TWO consecutive Graded stakes wins, his most recent the G2 Carter H on April 8 in New York. THE MILL FED FROM THE BEGINNING: BORN, RAISED & RACED: Bowman-Higgins-bred, Ellen Charles-owned, Brittany Russell-trained.
COGLIANESE PHOTOGRAPHY
MAKING THE GRADE
RUNNING AGAINST THE BIG GUYS–
CONGRATULATIONS POST TIME!
Charlie Brown 443-309-1288 • Kelley Nash 443-981-1352 • Michelle Jennings 410-952-4681 • TheMillStores.com
FUELED BY The Mill®

Maryland Horse
LIBRARY
AND EDUCATION CENTER

Celebrating Maryland's horses

A Special Collection
of equine-related books
Over 5,000 volumes
in this reading / research library

Stop by for a visit

Monthly happenings include
panel discussions, author talks,
book signings and more

Check out our Fourth Monday Events
and more on our calendar at
MarylandHorse.com/library

Meeting space available

321 Main Street, Reisterstown, MD 21136
Open Monday – Friday • 9 – 5
For more information, visit

— Broker's Tip —

BY RICK ABBOTT

Hubie, Sam, Elwood and Mountain Man

Back in the 1960s when and where I grew up near Paoli, Pa., and right next door to Devon, there were three sisters who became one of the finest family of horsewomen I've ever known. Their father, Bill Buchanan, was in the general insurance business with a side hustle in equine insurance. They owned a small farm, Hollow Hill Farm, in Valley Forge and, like me, fox hunted, showed horses and ponies, and were members of the Radnor Hunt Pony Club. We were all horse-crazy kids and barn rats whose parents indulged us as best as they could. We all went away to college but none of us lost the fascination with horses, mostly show hunters and fox hunters which led inevitably to racing on the flat and over jumps.

Included among the group were Kip Elser, who rode races while attending Johns Hopkins, and his brothers Andy, who became an equine veterinarian, and George, who practices equine law. Meanwhile Tad Zimmerman followed me to Princeton and had a career at the World Bank while eventing, becoming Master of the Piedmont Hunt and a steward in steeplechasing and flat racing.

This group was well-augmented by the Buchanan sisters. Debbie, the eldest, was always more of a trainer than a rider and she soon established a thriving business with young riders on ponies and junior hunters. Betsy, who always had a knack for teaching, eventually moved to Kentucky and married veterinarian Dr. William Fishback. For many years Betsy ran the intercollegiate riding program at Midway College and raised a family that included their daughter, Leslie Fishback Cutchins, who won the McClay Finals.

The middle sister, Winkie, was always the best rider of the three and won many championships and end-of-year awards with her horse No Duplicate. Winkie attended Bennett College and after graduation she moved to Keswick, Va., to work with the Glenmore ponies for Mr. and Mrs. L. Clay Camp. In Keswick, she met and married Camp's nephew, Hugh Motley. Their daughter, Sheila, was the finest junior hunter and pony rider of her generation.

"Hubie," as Motley was known to one and all, was a multi-talented horseman. Born in Virginia Beach but raised in the horse country around Charlottesville, he showed, hunted, played polo, broke and trained racehorses, and sales-prepped yearlings for his uncle. He quickly became a fixture at the end of a shank at Saratoga and Keeneland.

Later, after Hubie and Winkie bought Highground, their farm in Keswick, they set up a consignment business at the yearling and 2-year-old sales and had great success. Hubie, however, had many other equine interests and pursued them with passion. He even became Master of the Keswick Hunt. It would be remiss to not mention that Hubie liked an occasional beer. In fact, an occasional 9:30 a.m. beer at the Keswick Store was not unheard of, and this brings us to our story of the month.

Hubie was as natural a storyteller as I have ever known, and he spoke with the slightest stammer which kept his listeners on the edge of their seats. Charlottesville and its environs have always been a draw for the rich and famous and particularly those who have a love for horses and a knack for creating colorful stories. In the last 30 years there has also been an influx of movie stars and their families. Among that influx was the actor and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Sam Shepard and his partner Jessica Lange. Sam, it should be noted, loved Thoroughbred horses and also, like Hubie, was no stranger to a trip to the Keswick Store. Hubie and Sam became instant "runnin' buddies" and Hubie, who told me this story, said that this is just how it happened. As best as he could remember, I swear.

To understand this story requires a certain amount of familiarity with agrarian life around a place like Keswick, Va., or Unionville, Pa., or Monkton, Md. In these areas, great wealth lives side by side with farmers who have been on the land since before movie stars roamed among the common folk. The farmers indulge the rich folk their fantasies of rural living and the rich folk indulge the locals while they wait around for the farmers to go bust and sell out. In the meantime, everyone acts like one big happy family.

The other piece of knowledge involves knowing what a "Can't Sag" gate is. Invented in 1908 by the Rowe Manufacturing Co. of Galesburg, Ill., this gate, for holding livestock, is not a thing of beauty but a marvel of single, purpose-built utility. It is 52 inches tall and composed of an intricate hatch work of wooden slats and steel cross members. Fox hunters hate them because they are frightening to jump. Farmers love them since they keep fox hunters out and livestock in. Exactly what a gate should be designed to do. And they "Can't Sag."

Anyway, one spring morning, all-around horseman Hubie Motley, and Oscar-nominated actor Sam Shepard were enjoying the objects of their affection at the Keswick Store when a farmer we'll call Elwood rushed into the store in quite a flap. This was no chino-wearing pseudo farmer but the bib-overall kind with Red Wing boots. When he finally calmed down enough to speak, he related his problem. It appeared that, when he went to feed his cattle that morning, Elwood discovered that Mountain Man, his 2,400-pound prize Charolais bull, had stuck his horns through a 16-foot "Can't Sag" gate, lifted it off its hinges and was now wandering around the county with a 16-foot "Can't Sag" gate firmly hanging from his head.

Listening to this story absolutely required another beer and Elwood wouldn't mind if he did. Over a beer, Oscar-nominated and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Sam Shepard and all-around horseman with little cattle experience Hubie Motley decided that they were just the men to solve Elwood's problem. Off they went in three pickups.

When the three men arrived at the destination, they observed an about 20-acre cattle pasture, fenced with barbed wire and containing 18 Charolais cows, seven calves and an extremely angry bull with a 16-foot "Can't Sag" gate hanging from his horns. The cows were all spooked by the sight of the bull crashing through the undergrowth with a gate twice the size of a sheet of plywood banging into trees, fences and, occasionally, cows and calves. The three men blocked the entrance to the pasture with their trucks and sat down to give the situation a good think. It was clear that the gate was going nowhere and that putting human hands on the bull's head was a non-starter; the swinging gate could be lethal to a movie star and a horseman who didn't really have a dog in the fight other than the mongrel pride.

Pride, however, is a persistent cur and a thirsty one. It seemed that resupply might be in order now that they had seen the situation with their own eyes, and so, leaving two trucks to block the opening where the 16-foot "Can't Sag" gate had once hung, all three men piled into one pickup and

Vetericyn®
ANIMAL WELLNESS
NEW PRODUCT!
DRESSING GEL
WOUND CARE
HOOF SOAK
HOOF CARE
FoamCare
LINIMENT
NEW SIZE!
CLEAN. TREAT. HEAL.®
Vetericyn® makes the most advanced, effective, and safe products to keep horses healthy. Whether it's cleaning wounds, treating hoof or eye issues, or conditioning and cleaning the coat, horse lovers trust Vetericyn for total equine wellness.
Made in the USA | vetericyn.com

Breed Local
Race Local
Buy Local
Raise Local
Maryland
We grow horses
MarylandThoroughbred.com

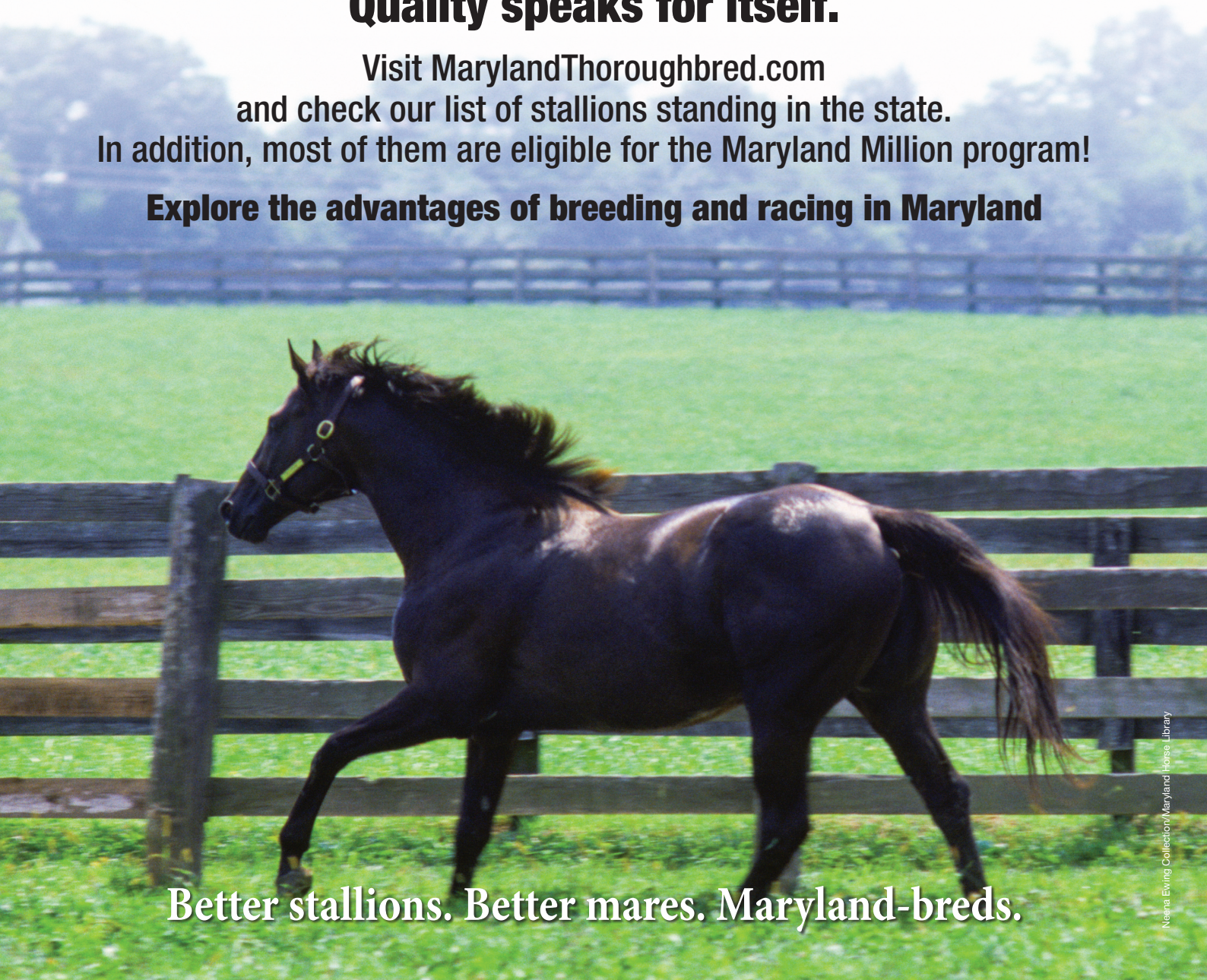
22.6

In 2023, Maryland stallions boasted the largest average book of mares in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

Quality speaks for itself.

Visit MarylandThoroughbred.com
and check our list of stallions standing in the state.
In addition, most of them are eligible for the Maryland Million program!

Explore the advantages of breeding and racing in Maryland



Better stallions. Better mares. Maryland-breds.

Neena Ewing Collection/Maryland Horse Library

headed back to the Keswick Store. On the way they made an inventory of their needs: a sharp chainsaw with a long blade and plenty of fuel, this they assured each other was to cut up the 16 foot "Can't Sag" gate and not to dehorn Mountain Man; several hundred feet of stout rope; some lights in case this rescue went on into the night; some veterinary supplies including sedation; and a means of injection from a safely remote distance.

As it was now about 2:30 they, obviously, needed to refill the cooler and buy enough sandwiches and snacks in case this operation lasted overnight. It took longer than anticipated to acquire, from the game warden, a tranquilizer dart gun with the ammo load to take down a bull the size of Mountain Man, and they had a hard time borrowing the right caliber chainsaw but, by about 4:30, the three brave men were ready to make their assault. The store was about 20 minutes from the scene of the crisis; just enough to crack another beer – or two – as they returned to the disaster site.

As they drove up, the light was beginning to fade. At first, they couldn't be sure what they were seeing but on close inspection they determined that Mountain Man had splintered the 16-foot "Can't Sag" gate using the sides of the pick-up. The trucks were the worse for wear, but the bull looked fine. And the gate was reduced to kindling and metal pieces.

Frankly there were sighs of relief from the protagonists although the use of the dart gun had been keenly anticipated. Elwood allowed that he would drive back to the farm for another 16-foot "Can't Sag" gate if Sam and Hubie would keep the opening blocked. Sam, always a playwright, had a better idea. "Elwood, old buddy, how about you bring back two 8-foot gates."

I wanted to fact check this piece but, sadly, Hugh Motley died in 2016 from pneumonia, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and actor Sam Shepard died in 2017 from ALS and, perhaps, most tragically, Winkie Buchanan Motley passed away in 2020.

The farmer, Elwood, could not be reached as he sold his farm and Charolais herd to a TikTok influencer for $8.5 million and moved to Hilton Head. So I'm sticking with Hubie's version. ■

Renewal

Spring is an invigorating time of year. Newborn foals and budding 2-year-olds provide renewed optimism for the year. With all the effort, time and expense you put into developing your upcoming sales and/or racing product, why not develop a plan to manage risk?

Who better to purchase equine insurance than from a horseman representing a company of horsemen? Call EMO's representative Bill Reightler to discuss your options for managing equine related exposure.

443-935-7583

THE EMO AGENCY, INC.
EMO
Equine Insurance Coverages
A division of Marshall & Sterling Insurance

— In Memoriam —

DOUGLAS LEES

Bruce Miller

Retired steeplechase trainer F. Bruce Miller, who trained five-time champion and Hall of Famer Lonesome Glory, died April 9. The Pennsylvania resident was 89.

Miller trained steeplechase and flat horses for more than 40 years, won a National Steeplechase Association training championship in 1996, led the list by earnings in 1995 and 2000, and trained additional champions All Gong (GB) (2000) and Pierrot Lunaire (2012). Miller won the Maryland Hunt Cup three times – with Our Steeplejack in 1985, Solo Lord in 2001 and Make Me a Champ in 2005. Miller's daughter Blythe Miller Davies (1994 and 1995) and son Chip Miller (1996) won NSA jockey championships. Grandson Teddy Davies is an amateur steeplechase jockey, who won the Hunt Cup in 2022.

Miller's father Fulmer was the huntsman of the Huntingdon Valley Hunt in Pennsylvania and operated a local horse shipping business. Miller showed and foxhunted through high school and joined the U.S. Army in the mid-1950s. While at Fort Bragg (now Fort Liberty) in North Carolina, he rode with the Moore County Hounds in Southern Pines and in the 1957 Sandhills Cup and Carolina Cup timber races. Upon a return to Pennsylvania, he rode races as an amateur, winning a single NSA-sanctioned race – the open timber at Monmouth County aboard Durock in 1976 – and point-to-points. He rode in four Maryland Hunt Cups – falling at the fifth fence in 1964 with Chestnut Chief and riding Eastmac three times. They fell at the third in 1972, finished second in 1973 and were third in 1975.

Equibase credits Miller with 561 lifetime wins as a trainer – from 1977 through 2017. Flat horses mainly filled the stalls through much of the 1980s with highs of 37 wins in 1984 and 43 in 1985. Steeplechasers gradually became the main performers at Miller's Fox Ferret Farm near Cochranville, Pa.

Lonesome Glory took the business to a new level. In a career that spanned nine seasons, 1991-99, he won 17 American jump races including three Colonial Cups, two Carolina Cups, the Iroquois, A.P. Smithwick, New York Turf Writers Cup, Breeders' Cup, Temple Gwathmey and Grade 1 races at Keeneland and Churchill Downs racetracks. His $965,809 in purse earnings are still third all-time. On top of that, he won twice over jumps in England (a hurdle race that made Miller the first American to train an English jump winner and a chase for English trainer Charlie Brooks) and earned another $325,000 in bonuses.

Owned by Kay Jeffords, the chestnut won Eclipse Awards in 1992, 1993, 1995, 1997 and 1999 – the only five-time champion in U.S. jump racing history and one of just six horses to win five Eclipse Awards since their inception in 1971. Like the others – Secretariat, Affirmed, Wise Dan, John Henry and Forego – Lonesome Glory occupies a spot in racing's Hall of Fame. Combined (flat, jump, U.S., England), he won 24 of 44 starts and earned $1,325,868.

Miller won a single graded stakes on the flat, a Grade 3 at the Meadowlands with Milesius. In addition, Miller long held the position of field master with the Cheshire Foxhounds in Unionville, Pa.

Survivors include children Chip, Blythe and Ann, sister Brenda Redfield, brother Butch Miller, grandchildren Teddy and Scarlet Davies and several nieces and nephews. Memorial

contributions may be made to Bethany Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 17, Mendenhall, PA 19357 or bethanychurchpa.org.

Peter Angelos

A giant among two Maryland sports as the owner of the Baltimore Orioles baseball team and the Marathon Farms breeding/racing business, Peter Angelos died March 23. He was 94.

A Pittsburgh, Pa., native, Angelos grew up in Baltimore and worked in his father's tavern. With a law degree from the University of Baltimore, he was elected to the Baltimore City Council at 29 and later lost votes for council president and mayor. He opened his law firm in 1961 and it grew to a business with 10 offices in Maryland and beyond with more than 50 attorneys on staff. He represented unions at Bethlehem Steel in asbestos-related workers' compensation cases, winning major settlements for the workers, and later represented the state of Maryland in a settlement with tobacco companies.

In 1993, Angelos led a local effort to purchase the Orioles at auction for $173 million (outbidding New York arts dealer Jeffrey Loria).

An early foray into racing for Angelos appeared to be a $2,500 weanling purchase at the Maryland Sales Agency breeding stock sale in 1985. Named Gilded Girl, she lost all four starts. Another purchase, Love Me a Lot, won the Miss Preakness Stakes for Angelos – racing as Marathon Farms – in 1990. In 1994, the Orioles sponsored a race – won by a horse Angelos co-owned – on Maryland Million Day through the team's charitable foundation. In 1998, Angelos bought Ross Valley Farm in Sparks, Md., and set it up as a home for his mares and foals.

Angelos/Marathon campaigned Grade 2 winner Greek Sun, Grade 3 winner and Maryland-bred champion Willa On the Move and others such as stakes winners O Dionysus and Willa On the Move's daughter Grecian Maiden, five-time winner Showalter (named for the Orioles manager Buck), Maryland Million winner Lexington Street and others. Marathon bred three Maryland Million winners and owned two. Marathon won three races in 2019 and hasn't had a starter since 2021. Circle P, a son of Speightster, was from Marathon's 2021 crop and sold as a weanling at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December sale for $18,000. In six starts, he's hit the board five times, won last year's Maryland Juvenile and was third in the Miracle Wood Stakes in February.

Angelos supported numerous causes in the state including the University of Baltimore, MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center and others. He had been in poor health for some time. The family agreed to sell the Orioles to a group led by Baltimore native David Rubenstein.

David Howard

Officially a trainer since 2021 but long a part of the Maryland racing community, David C. Howard died of a heart attack March 15. He was 45.

Howard was introduced to racing by trainer Kieron Magee and also worked with trainer Amanda Rawlings. Howard started four as a trainer late in 2021, and won 11 races the next year. In 2023, the victory total reached 14 and he had won three races this year including one – Thencomemorning – at Laurel Park the day he died.

Survivors include his children D.J. and Christopher Howard, his father Charles and mother Theresa Earp, brothers Michael Collins, Bryan Lowery, Edward Howard and Stephen Lowery and sister Brooke Nathan-Collins. Memorial donations may be made to Beyond the Wire at beyondthewire.org/donate.

Doug Thomas

Retired jockey Doug Thomas, who was a regular on the Mid-Atlantic circuit during the heart of a 30-year career, died of a heart attack March 9. He was 78. Born in Canada, Thomas won 2,092 races according to Equibase and scored graded stakes wins aboard Miss Indy Anna, Spruce Fir, Salem Drive, Elevated, Sharp Belle and Silent Cal.

Thomas launched his career at Woodbine in Toronto, before completing his apprenticeship at Aqueduct in New York. He rode at Monmouth Park in the 1970s and 1980s. Sharp Belle won the Monmouth Oaks-G1 in 1978. New Jersey-bred Spruce Fir twice captured the Queen Charlotte-G3 at the Meadowlands and the Matchmaker-G2 at Atlantic City in 1989. Thomas lost extended time to injuries including a broken back, shoulder, wrist, thumb and an orbital bone that caused permanent vision damage. He retired in 1997 and was living in Arizona at the time of his death.

Thomas is survived by his wife, Jane Johnson; his son, Robert; and a former wife, MaryAnn.

It's what we do.

321 Main Street in Reisterstown, Maryland

Home of

MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Since 1929

MARYLAND THOROUGHBRED HALL OF FAME

Maryland Horse LIBRARY AND EDUCATION CENTER

THE Maryland Horse FOUNDATION

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Maryland Horse

MARYLAND MILLION LTD

410.252.2100 • MarylandThoroughbred.com

Maryland Horse®

May 2024 — Official publication of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association; Vol. 89, No. 5

Maryland Horse Breeders Association Inc.
321 Main Street
Reisterstown, MD 21136
410-252-2100
www.marylandthoroughbred.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Kent Allen Murray
President
Christine W. Holden
Vice-president
William K. Boniface
Secretary-treasurer
Cricket Goodall
Executive director
George Adams, T.J. Albert*, Amy O. Burk, Henry S. "Tim" Clark III, Charles C. Fenwick Jr., Michael Harrison DVM, Lisa Golden Hofstetter, Tim Hopkins*, Ann B. Jackson, TK Kuegler, Grace Merryman, Gina Robb, Thomas J. Rooney, Adair B. Stifel
**president appointed*

DIRECTORS EMERITUS
(served 18 years)
J. William Boniface, R. Thomas Bowman, King T. Leatherbury, Donald P. Litz Jr., Ann Merryman, Michael Pons, James B. Steele, Katharine M. Voss

ADVISORY COUNCIL
(past MHBA presidents)
Richard F. Blue Jr., J. William Boniface, William K. Boniface, Frank A. Bonsal, R. Thomas Bowman, Hal C.B. Clagett III, Kimball C. Firestone, Michael Harrison DVM, King T. Leatherbury, J.W.Y. Martin Jr., Joseph P. Pons Jr., Michael Pons, Katharine M. Voss, Robert B. White

Flawless Honor

Broodmare of the Year crown goes to a survivor, Otherwise Perfect

By Sandra McKee

The excitement built in anticipation of Krysia's new foal expected in the spring of 2002.

The excitement was warranted, as Krysia, the rambunctious daughter of Polish Numbers and the Sir Ivor mare Allegedly, had an all-star pedigree. She delivered the foal, a perfect little filly eventually named Otherwise Perfect. It is a strange name for a filly, whose conformation was beautifully perfect; but a name that suited her perfectly, as you will learn.

In 2023, she was named Maryland Broodmare of the Year. The award came as a surprise to those who watched over her throughout her life at Dance Forth Farm in Chestertown.

Veterinarian Dr. Tom Bowman, his wife Chris and their daughters Becky Davis and Quin didn't even realize their mare, who died at age 17 in 2019, was in the running.

"I guess the biggest satisfaction about this award is that it has so much human element to it," said Tom Bowman. "You know, that's what I think makes it special. It's a case where kindness prevailed. If [Kentucky farm] Lane's End hadn't have been as generous as they were this never would have happened."

This is Otherwise Perfect's story and that of those who helped make her life possible.

All-star family, devastating start

It was an exciting beginning for the Bowmans, their friend Milton Higgins and Lane's End, whose partnership put together Krysia and first-year stallion Lemon Drop Kid, the 1999 Belmont Stakes-G1 winner and champion older male of 2000.

Krysia brought family. Her dam was a half-sister to Alleged, one of just eight horses to win France's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe twice. The son of Hoist the Flag won nine of 10 starts and was rated as Europe's top horse in 1977 and 1978 before being syndicated for $16 million as a stallion. Princess Pout, dam of Alleged and Allegedly, won 13 races and earned $260,265 for her owner/breeder June McKnight and trainer Mikey Smithwick. She brought along pedigree stalwarts Prince John and *Princequillo, and another McKnight/Smithwick runner in Determined Lady.

It was an all-star family tree.

McKnight's son Turney, in the original partnership with the Bowmans and Higgins in 1997 when they bred Allegedly to Polish Numbers to produce Krysia, thought back through all those breeding lines and said, "If [Otherwise Perfect] goes all the way back to Princess Pout and Allegedly, there is no finer pedigree anywhere."

The foal arrived in May and on a warm day less than a week after her birth, the filly was out in the paddock with her mother. Both were leaping and playing, having so much fun that Davis, who was mowing the lawn, couldn't keep her eyes off them. At least not when they were in sight.

"It was super exciting, just watching her run around, that day," said Davis. "It was like at the highest high of watching this cool, little filly by Lemon Drop Kid out of this family running around in the paddock. And then I had to make a turn that took me away from seeing them and when I was able to look again, she's just lying there, in a little heap on the ground. I didn't even know if she was alive when I saw her. She was just like a little lump."

The highest highs, the lowest lows. Sometimes in the same breath. That's horse racing. But that's not the end of this story.

Otherwise Perfect lived a long, useful and happy life. The plain brown filly, with not one speck of white anywhere, never went to a racetrack, due to that run-in with something that day in the paddock. But she proved to be a survivor.

"We don't know what happened," said Tom Bowman, though Becky wonders if the noise from the lawn mower was bothering Krysia. "There was a water trough in the paddock. There were trees in the paddock. And there was a mare in the paddock. Any of those things could have been involved. Yes, we assumed it was the water trough because she was near the water trough, but we don't know that. And after all these years, what does it matter?

"Becky was watching her and she's fine and then, she turns around and the filly is in a lifeless heap," Bowman said. "She had a little mark, where hair was missing and a small trickle of blood from her nostril so we knew there was head trauma, and we treated her for shock. The disfigurement came later."

The collision damaged bone plates on one side of her face while the other side continued to grow normally.

Another setback, but kindness prevails

A few months later came another blow.

Krysia was found dead in the field at Roland Farm in Chesapeake City, where the Bowmans were raising mares and foals. Otherwise Perfect would be Krysia's first and only foal.

"We never found out why she died, but everybody always just assumes colic when you find a mare that's died overnight in the field with no explanation," Davis said. "But that meant Otherwise Perfect was just kind of orphaned. And then, between 6 and 7 months, I noticed that her face had a dent in it that looked like somebody had pressed their thumb into her face – and it just very quickly went from that to golfball size to lemon size to looking like somebody could fit a softball in this area in her face."

The Bowmans informed Lane's End, which owned 50 percent of the filly.

"We did everything we could," said Bowman. "We did have a surgery, but it didn't do much good. We tried though. But the thing that needs to be pointed out in this story is how magnanimous Lane's End was and their attitude toward us.

"They said, if you think you can save her and she might be some good for breeding in the future, you can have her. I can't remember the exact words again but that is the effect. They released the stud certificate for us and we were able to register her."

The other partner in this story, Higgins, then gave up his share.

"Most people in Maryland know Milton Higgins, my parents' partner, from reading articles and things about him, that he was very philanthropic and was always trying to help someone," Becky said. "He ended up giving his portion of the mare to my sister Quin and me. I think it was just because he knew we worked on the farm, and we handled things. I think Quin was in college at the time and that this horse was the first and maybe the only horse she ever had a part of. But we both worked here and Milton was fond of her, so he gave us his part of the horse. That's how it ended up being Quin, myself and our parents owning the mare."

At the time there were concerns about much more than ownership. The Bowmans worried about Otherwise Perfect being able to get enough nourishment; wondered if she would even be able to chew as her upper jaw didn't line up with her bottom jaw.

"The lower part of her jaw stayed straight," Davis said. "The upper part of her face started to curve sideways . . . We didn't even know if she was going to be able to eat well enough to survive nutritionally."

She sighed, remembering.

"But the filly was so alive and you know, that's where she got her name. She was otherwise perfect, other than her face, she was perfect. She was just a great, wonderfully conformed, perfect little mare. And she had a good attitude."

That was not necessarily a family trait as Krysia and some of the others in the pedigree were more exuberant than they needed to be.

"She didn't pick up her family's craziness, and I thought, 'Well, even if we just keep her as a babysitter, or something. . .' " Davis said. "There was just something about her. I didn't want to put her down and my parents wanted to give her a chance."

Otherwise Perfect surprised everyone.

A broodmare emerges

Otherwise Perfect could be a poster child for facing hardship and trauma. And the people around her demonstrated what kindness can do. The filly more than survived, she excelled at her job as a broodmare. First, she taught herself how to pick up the large pellets the Bowmans fed their horses.

"She was able to pick them up with her lips and her tongue and kind of get them back to her molars and chew, and during the summer, I didn't even supplement her. She just grazed," Davis said. "We have a lot of good grass and she just grazed. She did really well and she never had a problem holding her weight until she got a good bit older and we had to do some special dental work with her.

"I'd say when she was 8 or 9 years old, her top jaw, her top teeth, almost looked like a groundhog. I mean she had these big buck teeth that were off to the side of her face and just hanging down because they didn't touch anything and there was nothing to wear them off."

But each year in the field, Otherwise Perfect did more than her share of broodmare work, as she was left to be the last mare at weaning time.

"She was kind of the stabilizing factor," Davis said. "She was like the rock. She was the one that all the new babies that were missing their moms would go hang out with, and we definitely, several times, saw other foals nursing off of her, after they'd been weaned from their own moms. She just cared for them.

"Some people would just call her the Zen horse. She was just so even keel and so calm. I never saw her get real excited about anything. I never saw her get in a fight or get picked on, and she never picked on anything else. She just sort of was this little pillar of the community."

Besides looking after foals, Otherwise Perfect looked after people, too.

"I used her for a lot of the Pony Club and 4-H clinics we had," Davis said. "And you know, I always highlighted the tours and things by taking people to see her because she looked like a cartoon figure or something."

Davis acknowledged Otherwise Perfect's disfigurement to the visitors, but would always tell them to look beyond it.

"People would just gasp and look at her and I said, 'Yeah, but look at the rest of her. She's so healthy.' And everybody was always amazed at her."

And why not? Otherwise Perfect was amazing. Even with her facial woes, she was still able to mother the babies of other mares. And she was able to have her own, too.

There were 11. Some memorable for imperfect reasons, that brought back memories of the behavior of past generations. But the craziness never touched Otherwise Perfect.

"Otherwise Perfect was an extraordinarily nice mare," said Bowman. "I don't know whether it was because she received so much care when she was young or whether that's how the genetics lined up. Her mother was not necessarily

Otherwise Perfect's richest offspring are 2023 Frank Whiteley Stakes winner Alwaysinahurry (left) and Clubman, who was stakes-placed last year and, with $703,587 in earnings, is still running at age 10.

Jim McCue (2)

a nice horse, and the line was not necessarily known as being particularly nice animals to be around. But she was. She absolutely was."

Davis remembered Otherwise Perfect's mother Krysia running through a fence as a yearling.

"She did not tear herself up," she said. "But it's like she was mentally unstable. She was not a sound racehorse, but that female line was so strong, we decided to breed her, and got Otherwise Perfect. And Otherwise Perfect just turned out to be this great little broodmare, who lasted a long time. But it's almost like the crazy skipped a generation, because Otherwise Perfect did have several really difficult, really kind of screwball foals."

Davis recalled the first foal that was sold and ended up "running around its new neighborhood and ending up in a swimming pool in January. She got named Snorkel." A daughter of Lion Hearted, Snorkel won two of 36 starts.

"And then she had a foal that was delivered the day of or the day after my dad had his heart attack, which would've been 16 years ago," Davis said, "and we actually named him Stent Double, because my dad had two stents put in his heart, and he was a little difficult."

Stent Double lost all five of his starts.

And then there is 10-year-old Clubman, Otherwise Perfect's leading earner with 18 wins and $703,587 (and counting) over seven seasons. He has at times been "very, very difficult," Davis said. "He got hurt when he was a yearling and tried taking several people out. I mean, really, really, really difficult. But he's just a fighter, you know, a real fighter of a horse, and he's proven that on the track."

He and Otherwise Perfect's last foal, Alwaysinahurry, earned their mother the final accolade of her career.

Clubman, a son of Not For Love, has won or placed in eight stakes, including a third in last year's Henry Clark. Also in 2023, he won six of 15 starts (and placed in another six) while earning $152,890. It was his third five-win season, to go along with 2017 and 2019.

Alwaysinahurry, a son of Great Notion, earned his third stakes victory in April 2023 in Laurel Park's Frank Whiteley, that assured qualification for the Maryland Broodmare of the Year award.

The criteria for earning the 2023 award requires the dam to have a 2023 Maryland-bred graded stakes winner, or two Maryland-bred stakes performers (one or more being a stakes winner) or two or more Maryland-bred stakes winners lifetime, with one being in 2023. Mares must be producing or have completed their careers in Maryland.

Those voting on the award didn't know Otherwise Perfect's story, said Maryland Horse Breeders Association board member Billy Boniface.

"We follow the criteria and go by the stats," Boniface said. "Now that I've heard her story, it makes me feel good that she won, but I, personally, am all about the statistics. My decision was based solely on what her progeny had done in comparison to the other ones on the ballot.

"Her story doesn't surprise me, though, in the fact that it's the Bowmans. They're those type of people. They will go the extra mile to try to take care of their horses, and that's commendable. I think there are probably a lot of these stories that nobody really hears about throughout our industry – good stories that I wish were the ones being told more often than those about the bad characters at the racetracks."

It is quite an achievement for a mare, but for Otherwise Perfect it might be seen as something of a miracle. Once more, Bowman gave credit to Lane's End and a strong horse.

"The biggest point in her whole story is that in this cold and callous world of Thoroughbred breeding and greed," he said, "here's a farm that went out of its way to be kind not only to one of its clients, but also to take care of an animal that could have absolutely been euthanized."

Bowman is right. Without her strength of character and the decisions made by people in her life, there would have been no Broodmare of the Year recognition for an otherwise perfect horse. ❧

Maryland-bred Stakes Winners

Determined Driver splashes to Beyond The Wire victory

Jim McCue

Matt Dorman has spent serious money this decade, purchasing broodmares for six figures and selling their offspring for the same.

One mare who didn't travel that path was Elevated Vision. Purchased by Dorman and Kingdom Bloodstock for $68,000 from the Northview Stallion Station consignment at the 2016 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale, the daughter of Great Notion raced 17 times for the partners, winning three, one the 2018 Politely Stakes, and earned $139,161 with trainer Phil Schoenthal.

After finishing third in a January 2020 allowance, Elevated Vision was retired and bred to Dialed In. The bay filly she produced the following March, Determined Driver, dominated Laurel Park's Beyond The Wire Stakes to become the first stakes winner bred by Dorman March 23.

Campaigned by Dorman in the name of D Hatman Thoroughbreds, Determined Driver got her third win in five starts, to go with two stakes placings, and pushed her earnings to $178,810.

The even-money favorite in the field of five that included stakes winners Kissedbyanangel and Aoife's Magic, Determined Driver tracked those two in the early stages off modest fractions of :24.29 and :48.10. Nudged by Forest Boyce on the far turn, she seized control at the top of the stretch and drew off by 12½ lengths. Kissedbyanangel finished second to complete a Maryland-bred exacta. Final time for a mile over a sloppy track was 1:39.68.

Trained by Schoenthal, Determined Driver broke her maiden on debut at Colonial Downs Aug. 11 going 5½ furlongs on the turf, and finished second in the Sept. 2 Timonium Juvenile against males in her only other freshman start.

She launched her sophomore campaign at Laurel Feb. 9 with an allowance win, then finished second to multiple stakes winner Miss Harriett in the Feb. 24 Wide Country.

Determined Driver was foaled at Sycamore Hall Farm in Chesapeake City, as was her dam, who was bred by Sycamore Hall, and second dam, the multiple stakes-winning Polish Numbers mare Sparkling Number. Other Sparkling Number offspring include Grade 1 winner and group stakes producer Illuminant (Quality Road), stakes-placed 15-time winner Jeezum Jim (Fairbanks), an earner of $382,196, and the unraced Two's Cozy (Cozzene), dam of stakes winners Clever Mind and Follow the Dog and granddam of graded stakes-placed Dubby Dubbie and current 3-year-old filly Anna's Wish. Also a daughter of Dialed In, Anna's Wish finished third in Aqueduct's Cicada Stakes March 16.

Elevated Vision has a 2-year-old filly named Christy My Love (Maclean's Music), who sold for $62,000 to Valter Ramos at last year's Midlantic fall yearling sale, and an unnamed yearling colt by Hard Spun. She was bred to Charlatan for 2024. ❧

Kennebec relishes distance, turf for first stakes win

Coady Photography

Kennebec is on a hot streak. And the 6-year-old recorded his first stakes victory in the Wildcat Stakes at Turf Paradise in Phoenix, Ariz., April 11.

Kennebec has an affinity for the track's turf course, with three wins in four starts, including a victory March 28 in a 1-mile allowance less than a second off the course record, and a second by a head in the 2022 Turf Paradise Turf Stakes.

The 6-5 favorite in the seven-horse Wildcat field, Kennebec started well and relaxed in the early stages of the 11-furlong contest, dropping toward the back under Brayan Pena. Longshot Nashville Skyline opened a long early lead and provided a perfect pace for Kennebec to close into. As Nashville Skyline passed 6 furlongs in a grueling-for-the-distance 1:10.77 while 15 lengths clear of the others, Kennebec drafted in fifth.

On the third and final turn, Nashville Skyline began to shorten stride, and Pena angled Kennebec off the rail. He struck the front in the three path entering the stretch and pulled clear to win by 1¼ lengths in a course record 2:13.38.

Kennebec improved to 9-7-5 from 30 starts, for earnings of $251,543. On grass, he's 6-for-16 lifetime, with 11 top-two finishes.

Kennebec was bred by Stuart Grant's The Elkstone Group, and sold for $27,000 to Chris Drakos from the Brookdale Sales consignment at the 2019 Keeneland September yearling sale. Drakos cam-

paigned him with trainer Ryan Hanson for his first 10 starts, with one victory, before claimed for $25,000 by current owner Sergio Salguero at Los Alamitos July 3, 2021.

Kennebec raced in the barn of trainer Jonathan Wong until the summer of 2023, when he was transferred to trainer Ruby Thomas. He was transferred yet again this year to current trainer Jose Silva Jr. Kennebec has hit his best stride with victories in four of his last five starts. In 2024, he has a record of 3-0-0 in four starts with earnings of $69,180.

Kennebec is by classic-winning multiple champion Lookin At Lucky out of the Maryland-bred Gators N Bears mare Thisdanseistaken. Grant claimed Thisdanseistaken, a 10-time winner and earner of $258,910, for $25,000 on the Black-Eyed Susan undercard in 2015, and retired the stakes-placed 6-year-old that fall.

From four starters, she has produced two winners, with Kennebec her first stakes winner. Her most recent foal is the 2-year-old Global Campaign filly Belle of Freedom. Another mating to Global Campaign for 2023 did not produce a foal; she was bred to Improbable for 2024.

Maryland Horse LIBRARY AND EDUCATION CENTER

Library schedules duplicate book sale for Preakness Week

A large collection of classics, many out-of-print, as well as newer offerings will be available for purchase at bargain prices over two days, May 15-16, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Maryland Horse Library and Education Center in Reisterstown.

Books topics include training racehorses from the perspective of Thoroughbred Hall of Famers to studying pedigrees; breeding theories from the greats like Federico Tesio, to farm and barn management.

A small sampling of titles available include:

- Racing history books, including William H.P. Robertson's *The History of Thoroughbred Racing in America* and David Woods' *Fireside Book of Horse Racing*;
- Select years of the annual *American Race Horses* (published from 1936 to 1963), *American Racing Manuals* and *Steeplechasing in America* yearbooks.

Also ready to purchase are books on different breeds and disciplines, fiction, art and more!

Visit marylandhorse.com for more information on the sale and other events.

Eight Maryland-bred 2-year-olds sell at OBS March

Nine Maryland-breds went through the Ocala Breeders' March Two-Year-Olds in Training Sale ring March 12-14 in Ocala, Fla., with eight selling for an average of $109,625 and a median of $57,500. The figures represent an increase from last year, when six Maryland-breds sold for an average of $67,333 and a median of $56,000.

A dark bay or brown colt from the first crop of Honor A. P. led the way among Maryland-breds and Mid-Atlantic breds, fetching $300,000. Consigned by Cary Frommer and bred by Dark Hollow Farm, he sold to Amerman Racing. He breezed an eighth of a mile in :10.1 at the under-tack show the week prior.

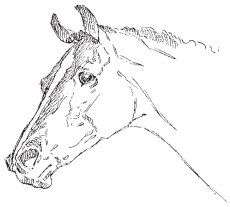
A headliner when named grand champion of the MHBA Yearling Show last year, the son of the Not For Love mare Flit went through last fall's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling sale and sold to Hillwood Stable for $87,000. He's a half-brother to $222,427-earner Betcha by Golly; his dam is a half-sister to stakes winners O Dionysus (Bodemeister) and Joy (Pure Prize) and stakes-placed Combat Diver. The colt's third dam, Safe At the Plate (by Double Zeus), is a half-sister to Maryland-bred legend and racing Hall of Famer Safely Kept and graded stakes winner and sire Partner's Hero.

Two other Maryland-breds, also by first-year sires, commanded six figures. Hot Promise, a colt by Promises Fulfilled, sold for $230,000 to West Point Thoroughbreds and C J Stable, LEB Agent. Bred by Randy and Gary Ridgely and consigned by Eddie Woods, the colt is out of the stakes-placed Latent Heat mare Hot Fun, whose first five foals are all winners. The chestnut breezed an eighth-mile in :9.4, a tick off the fastest time of nearly 500 works at the distance. This was the third time he's sold, after bringing $30,000 as a weanling at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December, and $110,000 at Keeneland September last year.

Hubert Guy Bloodstock paid $160,000 for a Gift Box colt bred consigned by Little Farm Equine for breeder 2500 Determined Stud. The colt breezed a furlong in :10. His dam, multiple stakes winner Involuntary (by City Zip), has produced two stakes horses from her first three foals: 2022 Canadian champion 2-year-old Philip My Dear, and stakes-placed Determined Sail. Her Gift Box son initially sold as a summer yearling at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky for $20,000.

Last year's Yearling Show champion, an Honor A. P. colt bred by Dark Hollow Farm and sold by Cary Frommer, led state-breds.

Five Maryland-breds sold in the ring, with three more selling post-sale, for a total of $877,000.



Maryland Foal Report

No Guts No Glory Farm is the breeder of a Paynter filly out of Outwithbigdaddy.

Wasabi's Practical Joke colt out of Itgetsgreaterlater (by Justify) is from the family of Cupid.

AFLEET FAIRY, by Afleet Express, b.f., Jan. 23, by Friesan Fire. Joseph A. Conroy MD.

AGUACITA, by War Chant, gr./ro.c., Jan. 31, by Blofeld. Jim Hallman.

ANNIE BOO BOO, by Albert the Great, b.f., March 27, by Uncle Lino. Michael J. Harrison.

APPLAUD, by Medaglia d'Oro, b.c., March 16, by Vekoma. The Stables at Mezza Luna LLC.

ARGENTESQUE, by Silver Deputy, b.c., March 2, by Enticed. Thornmar.

BACKWARD GLANCE, by Flashback, b.f., March 8, by Great Notion. Thornmar. Mare to Golden Lad.

BELLA MONETA, by Max's Pal, ch.c., March 27, by Known Agenda. Barak Farm.

BOUDICCA, by Hard Spun, gr./ro.c., Feb. 18, by Frosted. Thornmar.

CAPTAIN MUNNINGS, by Munnings, b.c., March 14, by Mosler. Richard F. Blue Jr.

CHESTNUT GROVE, by Street Cry (Ire), b.c., March 29, by Liam's Map. Timothy J. Rooney. Mare to Mage.

CODE NAME TAURUS, by Bullsbay, b.c., March 29, by Engage. Erika Neuberg.

DELIGHTFULLSTORM, by Stormy Atlantic, b.f., March 1, by Irish War Cry. Stephen Ferguson.

DIBBLE DASH, by Jump Start, dk.b./br.f., March 24, by Holy Boss. William B. Bayne Jr. Mare to Holy Boss.

DOUBLE FIRST, by Majestic Warrior, b.f., March 21, by Uncle Lino. Thornmar. Mare to Golden Lad.

ECLIPTICALSPHARAOH, by Eclipticalspraline, b.c., Jan. 28, by Colonel Liam. Maria M. Haire.

EVERLASTING SECRET, by Leroidesanimaux (Brz), ch.f., Jan. 22, by Engage. Dr. Frances Luther.

EYE ON BERLIN, by Trappe Shot, b.c., March 22, by Blofeld. Rodolfo Sanchez-Salomon.

FASTERTHANFAST, by Brethren, b.c., March 14, by Engage. Maria M. Haire.

FAST FIONNUALA, by Verrazano, gr./ro.f., March 28, by Irish War Cry. SAB Stables Inc.

FLEAGLE KOWSKI, by Nicanor, b.c., March 5, by Divining Rod. Moon Tower Racing. Mare to Loggins.

FOREVERINMYHEART, by Roman Ruler, ch.c., April 9, by Irish War Cry. Thornmar. Mare to Hoppertunity.

FUDGE CAKE, by Bandbox, b.f., March 30, by Bourbon Courage. Thornmar. Mare to Bourbon Courage.

GABBY'S BROWN, by Big Brown, ch.c., March 23, by Maximum Security. Clover Hill Farm Inc. Mare to Nashville.

GIRLS GOT RHYTHUM, by Zensational, gr./ro.c., March 5, by Blofeld. Konrad Wayson.

GRANDMA'S JUICE, by Weigelia, b.f., March 13, by Engage. Hector Villagomez.

HONEY BUN, by Scipion, b.f., Feb. 24, by Mosler. Thornmar. Mare to Great Notion.

HURRICANE ZOEY, by Rattlesnake Bridge, b.c., Feb. 11, by St Patrick's Day. Maria M. Haire.

ITGETSGREATERLATER, by Justify, b.c., Jan. 23, by Practical Joke. Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC, Erlandson LLC and Amy E. Kelley.

IRISH GAL, by Cape Blanco (Ire), ch.c., March 14, by Gormley. James B. Steele. Mare to Fullsome.

JUDYMOON, by Two Punch, b.f., March 19, by Bourbon Courage. Cathy Denelsbeck.

JUNE ANN (IRE), by Acclamation, b.f., March 27, by Goldencents. Timothy J. Rooney.

LEVEL WITH ME, by Rock Slide, ch.c., March 30, by Irish War Cry. Michael J. Harrison.

LITTLE MISS JONES, by Smarty Jones, dk.b./br.f., March 31, by Divining Rod. Nancy Lee Farms.

MADAM ALEX, by Not For Love, b.f., March 27, by Golden Lad. Thornmar. Mare to Friesan Fire.

MIDNIGHT DRAGON, by Flatter, b.c., March 8, by Irish War Cry. James F. Thames.

MISS MARGARET, by Bwana Charlie, gr./ro.f., March 25, by Eclipticalspraline. Maria M. Haire.

MISTY TASTE, by Verrazano, b.f., Feb. 12, by Uncle Lino. Jessica Wilson.

MOLLY O'SHEA, by Cape Blanco (Ire), dk.b./br.c., March 19, by Alternation. Justin J. Nixon. Mare to Rogueish.

MOON VALLEY, by Malibu Moon, b.c., March 25, by Irish War Cry. Hope Haskell Jones. Mare to Bourbon Courage.

MUSELET, by Flatter, b.c., Feb. 27, by Thousand Words. Thornmar. Mare to Bourbon Courage.

MY LITTLE JOSIE, by Outflanker, b.c., March 9, by Bourbon Courage. David DiPietro.

OUR CURLENE, by Curlin, b.f., March 28, by Practical Joke. Barak Farm and Sharon Dodgen.

PAISLEY SINGING, by Golden Lad, dk.b./br.c., March 2, by Engage. Charles Frock.

PAST PERFECT, by Stay Thirsty, dk.b./br.c., March 29, by Blofeld. Charles Bonuccelli. Mare to Blofeld.

PRINCESS PERRY, by Point Given, b.f., April 3, by Hoppertunity. Richard Blue Jr.

RAISE THE FLAG, by Awesome Again, b.c., March 25, by Runhappy. Thornmar.

ROCKSTAR GIRL, by Maclean's Music, b.c., March 29, by Engage. Damsires' Dreams Racing Stables.

ROSIE O' DARLIN, by Wiseman's Ferry, b.f., Feb. 13, by True Valour (Ire). David Krasnoff.

SAINTS PAYNTER, by Paynter, b.f., Feb. 1, by Blofeld. Konrad Wayson.

SAMURAI STEPH, by Lea, b.c., Feb. 22, by Great Notion. SAB Stables Inc.

SANDVIKA (FR), by Elnadim, b.f., March 20, by Engage. Richard Price. Mare to Great Notion.

SARAHLINE, by Northern Afleet, ch.f., Jan. 26, by St Patrick's Day. Maria M. Haire.

SHE AIN'T BAD, by Where's the Ring, b.f., March 17, by Engage. Sandee Martin.

SHEZA CHARM, by Elusive Warning, b.f., Feb. 23, by Funtastic. Ashley Kennedy.

SHINY CHROME, by California Chrome, b.f., March 16, by Roadster. Tony and Dawn Bowling.

SKIPPERDEE, by Giant's Causeway, b.f., March 26, by Kobe's Back. Barak Farm and Dino's Thoroughbreds LLC.

SO BLESSED, by Chapel Royal, ch.f., Feb. 27, by Eclipticalspraline. Maria M Haire.

STOLEN DANCE, by Broken Vow, b.f., March 12, by Bourbon Courage. Frank A. Bonsal Jr.

STONERAGEOUS, by Smoke Glacken, ch.c., Jan. 21, by Divining Rod. Black Star Stable.

SUNRISEBERNSTEINI, by Bernstein, b.c., Feb. 18, by Galawi (Ire). Dr. Frances Luther.

SWEET ON SMOKEY, by Successful Appeal, b.f., March 10, by Uncle Lino. BB Horses. Mare to Cupid.

SWIMMER, by Rock Slide, b.c., Feb. 10, by Engage. Wes Carter.

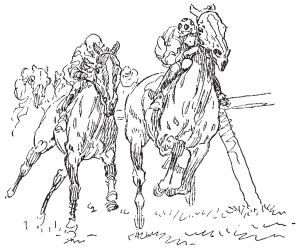
THIRST FOR DIAMOND, by Stay Thirsty, b.f., Feb. 26, by Engage. Paul F Neiber and Rosemarie Neiber.

TOASTY, by Polish Numbers, ch.c., March 27, by Friesan Fire. Mike Palmer.

WHAT A SCORE, by Terrell, ch.c., March 26, by Holy Boss. Frank A. Bonsal Jr.

WHERE'S MY PENNY, by Candy Ride (Arg), b.c., March 5, by Knicks Go. Charles Felton.

ZEKARA, by Curlin, b.f., Jan. 21, by Nashville. Barak Farm and Dino's Thoroughbreds LLC.



Maryland Fund Report

Bonuses paid for races run
in January 2024 at Maryland tracks

Geisha Stakes

January 28. Purse $75,000-guaranteed. For 4-year-olds and up, fillies and mares, registered Maryland-bred or Maryland sired. 1 mi. 9 competed. (Closed with 16 nominations.) Winner: MALIBU MOONSHINE, by Bourbon Courage. Breeder bonus: Dr. Ronald Harris Parker ($10,125). Stallion bonus: Bourbon Courage Syndicate ($3,375). Second: NORTHERN GLOW, by Union Rags. Breeder bonus: Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC ($3,375). Stallion bonus: None. Third: ROYAL WHISPER, by Palace Malice. Breeder bonus: Barak Farm ($1,687.50). Stallion bonus: None.

Jennings Handicap

January 28. Purse $75,000-guaranteed. For 4-year-olds and up, registered Maryland-bred or Maryland sired. 1 mi. 6 competed. (Closed with 19 nominations.) Winner: POST TIME, by Frosted. Breeder bonus: Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Dr. Brooke Bowman and Milton P. Higgins III ($10,125). Stallion bonus: None. Second: SEVEN'S ELEVEN, by Bandbox. Breeder bonus: Cottonwood Stable LLC ($3,375). Stallion bonus: Northview Stallion Station ($1,125). Third: ALL THREES, by Great Notion. Breeder bonus: Walter Vieser II ($1,687.50). Stallion bonus: Great Notion Syndicate ($562.50).

Breeder bonuses

Includes the additional 10 percent Maryland-sired bonus for winners of maiden races, initiated Jan. 1 during the 2022 Laurel winter meet. That bonus is reflected in the second figure earned for the race.

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—Food Foodie: Jan 6, 2nd race, $495.

Barak Farm—Always Forward: Jan. 13, 6th race, $472.50. Royal Whisper: Jan. 28, 8th race, $1,687.50. ($2,160)

Barak Farm and Dinos Thoroughbreds LLC—Alottacents: Jan. 27, 7th race, $1,080.

David Baxter Sr.—Miss Harriett: Jan. 14, 7th race, $6,615.

Teresa L. Beste—Dalinar: Jan. 13, 5th race, $5,535.

Charles Blanford—Go Sherry Go: Jan. 6, 3rd race, $5,535/$1,845. Momma's Lino: Jan. 14, 1st race, $742.50. ($8,122.50)

Bonita Farm—Never Done: Jan. 7, 1st race, $990.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Michael Bishop and Milton P. Higgins III—Still Game: Jan. 14, 7th race, $2,205.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman—What Does It Take: Jan. 6, 9th race, $832.50.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Dr. Brooke Bowman and Estate of Milton P. Higgins III—Post Time: Jan. 28, 9th race, $10,125.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Nami: Jan. 27, 3rd race, $4,590/$1,530. ($6,120)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and R. Larry Johnson—Up Against It: Jan. 12, 2nd race, $2,700; Jan. 27, 7th race, $540. ($3,240)

Bowman and Higgins Stable—No Walk Inthe Park: Jan. 7, 9th race, $1,215.

Shellaine Brown, Susan Baldrige, Horseshoe Valley and Treasure Stable—Going to the Lead: Jan. 13, 8th race, $1,192.50.

Deborah A. Butts—Gilda's Girl: Jan. 7, 5th race, $4,320; Jan. 28, 7th race, $1,102.50. ($5,422.50)

Kim and Kelly Campbell—Inspired Irish: Jan. 5, 1st race, $1,440.

Dennis A. Cardoza—Captain Cardo: Jan. 12, 2nd race, $900.

Again! A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY for MD-BRED/MARYLAND-SIRED
$500,000 PREAKNESS BONUS

To a Maryland-Bred/Sired winner of the Preakness:
Owner $225,000 • Breeder $225,000 • Stallion $50,000

To a Maryland-Bred (not sired) winner of the Preakness:
Owner $225,000 • Breeder $225,000

To a Maryland-Sired (not bred) winner of the Preakness:
Owner $225,000 • Stallion $50,000

• Finishing second would receive 20% of bonus
• Finishing third would receive 10% of bonus

Breed Local Buy Local Raise Local Race Local
We grow horses

Better stallions. Better mares. Maryland-breds.
Learn more at MarylandThoroughbred.com

Wes Carter—Had to Have Him: Jan. 12, 3rd race, $3,645/$1,215; Jan. 27, 10th race, $2,250. ($7,110)
Chanceland Farm—Full Irish: Jan. 14, 5th race, $6,615.
Clover Hill Racing LLC—Super Needy: Jan. 28, 1st race, $765.
Cottonwood Stable LLC—Seven's Eleven: Jan. 28, 9th race, $3,375.
Country Life Farm—Ace Nine Nine: Jan. 13, 7th race, $540.
Country Life Farm and Fleet and Fancy LLC—Next Girl: Jan. 12, 9th race, $3,105/$1,035. ($4,140)
Country Life Farm and Missy Rules LLC—Liquidator: Jan. 6, 8th race, $1,080.
Country Life Farm and Real Good Time LLC—Bill of Rights: Jan. 5, 1st race, $720.
Country Life Farm and Rock Sapphire LLC—I Wanna Rock: Jan. 12, 1st race, $517.50.
Country Roads Ltd.—My Flicker: Jan. 14, 8th race, $7,155.
Dark Hollow Farm—Oxide: Jan. 13, 7th race, $3,240.
Cynthia J. Darrah-Hipple—Lady Zeta: Jan. 14, 8th race, $1,192.50.
Designated Hitters Racing—Omar Comin: Jan. 6, 1st race, $3,645/$1,215. ($4,860)
David M. DiPietro—One Way Traffic: Jan. 14, 4th race, $6,615.
Double NK Partnership and Dennis Jankiewicz—Disputed Notion: Jan. 12, 5th race, $990.
Steve R. Ferguson—Lady Charlotte: Jan. 6, 4th race, $5,535.
Glenangus Farm LLC—Deeds of Love: Jan. 6, 8th race, $6,480. R B's Big Moment: Jan. 12, 9th race, $1,035. ($7,515)
Sergio Gomez—Lunita: Jan. 13, 1st race, $900.
Grandview Stable Inc. and Dominick J. Juno—Dolice Vita: Jan. 5, 2nd race, $1,665.
Greycross Stable LLC—Bay Street: Jan. 28, 7th race, $6,615.
Maria M. Haire—Neolithica: Jan. 14, 1st race, $4,455.
Michael J. Harrison DVM—Cluck Cluck: Jan. 6, 4th race, $1,845. Sunny Sunshine: Jan. 27, 1st race, $1,035. ($2,880)
Holly House Farm—Arden'sluckytobe: Jan. 5, 8th race, $1,080.
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Holt and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Palumbo—Blue Trillion: Jan. 14, 6th race, $4,590/$1,530. Shinelikeadiamond: Jan. 13, 1st race, $450. ($6,570)
Michael and Debbie Horning—My Sugar Boo: Jan. 12, 7th race, $5,535.
Housatonic Bloodstock LLC, Nicole Martin and Ciara Denicolo—Imaginized: Jan. 6, 1st race, $607.50.
Ann B. Jackson—Brzina: Jan. 28, 2nd race, $1,305.
Jagger Inc.—Chica Chuck: Jan. 14, 9th race, $742.50. Kick Startness: Jan. 12, 3rd race, $1,215. Speedyness: Jan. 7, 8th race, $6,615. ($8,572.50)
Jagger Inc. and Pete Mattson—Rubys Flash: Jan. 7, 3rd race, $4,455.
R. Larry Johnson—By Its Absence: Jan. 13, 4th race, $652.50. Call Another Play: Jan. 6, 4th race, $922.50. Come Rain Or Shine: Jan. 13, 5th race, $922.50. ($2,497.50)
Dr. Megan Kerford DVM and Justin J. Nixon—Sheilahs Warcloud: Jan. 12, 8th race, $6,615.
Joanne P. Krishack—Commanding General: Jan. 14, 2nd race, $900.
Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC—Blame the Tux: Jan. 14, 4th race, $1,102.50. Buckin' Dreamer: Jan. 28, 1st race, $1,530. Glass of Courage: Jan. 7, 7th race, $1,845. ($4,477.50)
Carl Lanier—Freeze the Fire: Jan. 5, 8th race, $2,160.
James Lee Lawrence II and Lawrence Stables Inc.—My Mamba: Jan. 7, 2nd race, $585.
Estate of Fred T. Lewis Sr. DVM—Celtic Contender: Jan. 28, 3rd race, $1,057.50.
LRM Stable LLC—Gold Digging Broad: Jan. 6, 7th race, $6,615.
Cal Lynch, Dr. Tom Keenan and Spendthrift Farm—Under the Overpass: Jan. 6, 1st race, $1,215.
Estate of Robert T. Manfuso—Catch the Kitten: Jan. 13, 6th race, $945.
Glenn R. Martin—Princess Anisa: Jan. 12, 9th race, $517.50.
Silvio Martin—Sincerito: Jan. 28, 1st race, $4,590.
Mary E. Eppler Racing Stable—Lamarvelous: Jan. 6, 5th race, $2,205.
Peter D. Mattson—Minny Speightster: Jan. 13, 9th race, $1,035.
Mezza Luna Farm LLC—Made Birdie: Jan. 7, 4th race, $495.
Mikelle Farm—True Sunshine: Jan. 14, 1st race, $1,485.
Bryan B. Minnich—King's River: Jan. 28, 5th race, $922.50.
Kevin P. Morgan—Rahmer: Jan. 14, 2nd race, $450.
Murmur Farm—Celtic Bond: Jan. 14, 6th race, $765. Golden Charm: Jan. 13, 3rd race, $1,215; Jan. 27, 3rd race, $1,530. ($3,510)
No Guts No Glory Farm—Fuhgeddaboudit: Jan. 28, 4th race, $1,260.
Paul O'Loughlin, David Wade and Matty Jeff Jr.—Classy Chick: Jan. 6, 3rd race, $922.50.
Charles V. Parker—Mose Perfect: Jan. 28, 10th race, $4,995.
Ronald Harris Parker—Malibu Moonshine: Jan. 28, 8th race, $10,125.
A. Leonard Pineau—Sullivan Street: Jan. 14, 3rd race, $2,970.
A. John Price—Wesley Thomas: Jan. 7, 3rd race, $742.50.
Cynthia K. Rickman—Casino Tricks: Jan. 13, 2nd race, $562.50; Jan. 27, 2nd race, $472.50. ($1,035)
Randy Ridgely—Finaljump: Jan. 27, 3rd race, $765.
Franklin G. Smith Sr.—Porch Swing: Jan. 27, 2nd race, $2,835.
South Branch Equine LLC—Sharmin: Jan. 5, 3rd race, $1,035.
Bob G. Sowder—Irish Lace: Jan. 5, 7th race, $742.50.
James B. Steele Jr.—Hampden Lane: Jan. 13, 2nd race, $1,125. My Endeavor: Jan. 13, 9th race, $517.50. ($1,642.50)
Sugarland LLC Equine Etiquette—The Last Jumpstart: Jan. 12, 1st race, $1,035.
Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Addy's Laddy T N T: Jan. 14, 2nd race, $2,700. Formal Affair: Jan. 7, 7th race, $5,535. Goodafternoonoscar: Jan. 14, 5th race, $2,205. John Hall: Jan. 14, 5th race, $1,102.50. Northern Glow: Jan. 6, 7th race, $2,205; Jan. 28, 8th race, $3,375. Three's a Crowd: Jan. 27, 1st race, $517.50. ($17,640)
Stella F. Thayer—Photo Hop: Jan. 14, 9th race, $1,485.
The Elkstone Group LLC—Cap Com: Jan. 7, 8th race, $2,205. It's Viper: Jan. 28, 6th race, $2,385. ($4,590)
Thornmar Farm LLC—At First Sight: Jan. 7, 9th race, $607.50; Jan. 27, 11th race, $607.50. Canoodle: Jan. 7, 6th race, $540. Forgotten Gift: Jan. 13, 3rd race, $3,645/$1,215. Goodbye Note: Jan. 7, 7th race, $922.50. Great Call: Jan. 12, 6th race, $472.50. Please Marry Me: Jan. 7, 1st race, $495. Take a Hint: Jan. 5, 8th race, $6,480. ($14,985)
2500 Determined Holdings—Determined Blue: Jan. 7, 9th race, $3,645.
Two Legends Farm and Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Amie's Symphony: Jan. 12, 7th race, $922.50.
Walter N. Vieser II—All Threes: Jan. 28, 9th race, $1,687.50.
Susan Wantz—He's On Fire: Jan. 27, 5th race, $990.
Winding Creek Farm—Bruder: Jan. 13, 5th race, $1,845.

Stallion bonuses

BANDBOX (Forgotten Gift: Jan. 13, 3rd race, $1,215. Seven's Eleven: Jan. 28, 9th race, $1,125. Take a Hint: Jan. 5, 8th race, $2,160): Northview Stallion Station—$4,500.
BARBADOS (Hampden Lane: Jan. 13, 2nd race, $375. My Endeavor: Jan. 13, 9th race, $172.50): Shamrock Farm—$547.50.
BLOFELD (Blue Trillion: Jan. 14, 6th race, $1,530. Golden Charm: Jan. 13, 3rd race, $405; Jan. 27, 3rd race, $510. Goodbye Note: Jan. 7, 7th race, $307.50. Miss Harriett: Jan. 14, 7th race, $2,205): Blofeld Syndicate—$4,957.50.
BOURBON COURAGE (Glass of Courage: Jan. 7, 7th race, $615. Malibu Moonshine: Jan. 28, 8th race, $3,375. Sunny Sunshine: Jan. 27, 1st race, $345): Bourbon Courage Syndicate—$4,335.
BUFFUM (Commanding General: Jan. 14, 2nd race, $300. Shinelikeadiamond: Jan. 13, 1st race, $150): Buffum Syndicate—$450.
DESPITE THE ODDS (Up Against It: Jan. 12, 2nd race, $900; Jan. 27, 7th race, $180): R. Larry Johnson—$1,080.
DIVINING ROD (Liquidator: Jan. 6, 8th race, $360. Next Girl: Jan. 12, 9th race, $1,035): Divining Rod Syndicate—$1,395.
DORTMUND (Dolice Vita: Jan. 5, 2nd race, $555. Never Done: Jan. 7, 1st race, $330): Kaleem S. Shah—$885.
FORCE THE PASS (Had to Have Him: Jan. 12, 3rd race, $1,215; Jan. 27, 10th race, $750. One Way Traffic: Jan. 14, 4th race, $2,205): Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC—$4,170.
FRIESAN FIRE (Freeze the Fire: Jan. 5, 8th race, $720. He's On Fire: Jan. 27, 5th race, $330): Friesan Fire Syndicate—$1,050.
GOLDEN LAD (Addy's Laddy T N T: Jan. 14, 2nd race, $900. Casino Tricks: Jan. 13, 2nd race, $187.50; Jan. 27, 2nd race, $157.50. Classy Chick: Jan. 6, 3rd race, $307.50. Go Sherry Go: Jan. 6, 3rd race, $1,845. Lamarvelous: Jan. 6, 5th race, $735. Lunita: Jan. 13, 1st race, $300. Omar Comin: Jan. 6, 1st race, $1,215. Oxide: Jan. 13, 7th race, $1,080. Rahmer: Jan. 14, 2nd race, $150. Wesley Thomas: Jan. 7, 3rd race, $247.50): Golden Lad Syndicate—$7,125.
GREAT NOTION (All Threes: Jan. 28, 9th race, $562.50. At First Sight: Jan. 7, 9th race, $202.50; Jan. 27, 11th race, $202.50. Bruder: Jan. 13, 5th race, $615. Brzina: Jan. 28, 2nd race, $435. Disputed Notion: Jan. 12, 5th race, $330. Fuhgeddaboudit: Jan. 28, 4th race, $420. Great Call: Jan. 12, 6th race, $157.50. Kick Startness: Jan. 12, 3rd race, $405. Lady Charlotte: Jan. 6, 4th race, $1,845. My Flicker: Jan. 14, 8th race, $2,385. Speedyness: Jan. 7, 8th race, $2,205): Great Notion Syndicate—$9,675.
HANGOVER KID (Celtic Bond: Jan. 14, 6th race, $255): Hangover Kid Syndicate.
HOLY BOSS (Blame the Tux: Jan. 14, 4th race, $367.50): Holy Boss Syndicate.
IMAGINING (Buckin' Dreamer: Jan. 28, 1st race, $510. Imaginized: Jan. 6, 1st race, $202.50): Imagining Syndicate—$712.50.
IRISH WAR CRY (Celtic Contender: Jan. 28, 3rd race, $352.50. Full Irish: Jan. 14, 5th race, $2,205. Inspired Irish: Jan. 5, 1st race, $480. Irish Lace: Jan. 5, 7th race, $247.50. King's River: Jan. 28, 5th race, $307.50. Porch Swing: Jan. 27, 2nd race, $945): Northview Stallion Station Inc.—$4,537.50.
KOBE'S BACK (My Mamba: Jan. 7, 2nd race, $195): Bonita Farm.
LONG RIVER (Food Foodie: Jan. 6, 2nd race, $165): Anchor and Hope Farm for Long River Syndicate.
MADEFROMLUCKY (Arden'sluckytobe: Jan. 5, 8th race, $360. Made Birdie: Jan. 7, 4th race, $165. Sheilahs Warcloud: Jan. 12, 8th race, $2,205. Three's a Crowd: Jan. 27, 1st race, $172.50): Madefromlucky Syndicate—$2,902.50.
MOSLER (Bay Street: Jan. 28, 7th race, $2,205. I Wanna Rock: Jan. 12, 1st race, $172.50. Mose Perfect: Jan. 28, 10th race, $1,665. Sharmin: Jan. 5, 3rd race, $345): Mosler Syndicate—$4,387.50.
REDEEMED (Going to the Lead: Jan. 13, 8th race, $397.50): Redeemed Syndicate.
SUPER NINETY NINE (Ace Nine Nine: Jan. 13, 7th race, $180. Princess Anisa: Jan. 12, 9th race, $172.50. Super Needy: Jan. 28, 1st race, $255): Country Life Farm—$607.50.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2024

(through April 1)

1.	Jaxon Traveler	$215,850	
2.	Post Time	165,000	
3.	Determined Driver	113,810	
4.	Take a Hint	113,705	
5.	Speedyness	103,810	
6.	Miss Harriett	99,810	
7.	Charming Way	96,570	
8.	Tocayo	95,700	
9.	Malinois	90,390	
10.	Arden'sluckytobe	82,410	
11.	Too Many Kisses	$73,800	
12.	Inside Stunt	68,980	
13.	Call Another Play	66,815	
14.	Future Is Now	63,930	
15.	Up Against It	63,780	
16.	Bump N Run	62,640	
17.	She'sarollingstone	59,720	
18.	Augustine Red	57,690	
19.	Golden Charm	56,550	
20.	Seven's Eleven	55,000	

Registration questions? Membership inquiries? Member benefits questions?

Call Emily at the MHBA office
410.252.2100 ext. 129

THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER

Post Time

- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - **May 2024** -

In This Issue

NJ-bred star Eleven North turns 30

Governor Murphy announces Ed Wengryn as New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture

Rutgers Equine Science Center Horse Management Seminar virtual edition

TBANJ Membership Application

Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey

Officers

President
Rory Huston

Vice President
Janet Laszio

Treasurer
Lawrence Fleming

Secretary
Joe Coles

Board of Trustees

Joe Petrone

Nicholas Sacco

Executive Director
Michael Campbell

NJ-bred star Eleven North turns 30

The famous multiple stakes-winning New Jersey-bred mare Eleven North, who is honored with a stakes race in her name, turned 30 on March 19, 2024. Bred by Carolyn Sleeter and born on Sleeter Farm in Clementon, Eleven North entered the starting gate 40 times over the course of six years and reached the winner's circle 16 times. She won 10 stakes during her career, finished second and third six times each (half of them stakes-placings), and retired with earnings of $459,755.

Raced in the name of Gerald Sleeter and trained by Kevin Sleeter, she is a homebred through-and-through, as a daughter of Sleeter Farm stallion Northern Idol out of Sleeter-bred Image's Image, by one of the first stallions the Sleeters ever stood, Better Arbitor.

The 16th running of the Eleven North Handicap, for NJ-bred fillies and mares, will be run during the New Jersey Thoroughbred Festival presented by Malouf Auto Group Sunday, August 25, 2024, at Monmouth Park.

New Jersey-bred Eleven North and her breeder, Carolyn Sleeter, at Sleeter Farm in Clementon.

FOLLOW or LIKE **NJBREDS** *on.*

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY */ 265 HIGHWAY 36, SUITE 1R, WEST LONG BRANCH, NJ 07764*
TEL: 732-542-8880 / EMAIL: NJBREDS@GMAIL.COM / WWW.NJBREDS.COM

Governor Murphy announces Ed Wengryn as New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture

Governor Phil Murphy announced that Edward D. Wengryn will serve as the New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture, following his appointment by the State Board of Agriculture March 22. He becomes the eighth Secretary of Agriculture in New Jersey since the Department was established in 1916.

The State Board of Agriculture unanimously confirmed the appointment, which the governor approved. Since July 1, 2023, Assistant Secretary Joe Atchison III has directed the Department of Agriculture, assuming the responsibilities of Secretary, after the retirement of Secretary Douglas Fisher. Secretary Wengryn took over March 25.

"I am proud to announce the appointment of Ed Wengryn to serve as New Jersey's Secretary of Agriculture," said Gov. Murphy. "As the Garden State, agriculture is one of the most important facets of our state's identity and heritage. Ed comes from a farming family and is a passionate advocate for our agricultural community. I am confident that his experience and leadership will benefit the many residents who depend on the Department's programs and services, including for access to healthy, locally grown food. Ed will help to ensure that the agricultural community remains top of mind as we continue to expand economic opportunities for businesses across our state.

"I also want to thank Assistant Secretary Joe Atchison for this exemplary leadership following the retirement of the state's longtime Secretary of Agriculture, Douglas Fisher," continued the governor. "Joe has led with dedication and commitment, and his reliable and steady leadership has served as an asset to the Department."

"I want to thank the State Board of Agriculture for the nomination and the opportunity to serve the agriculture industry in New Jersey as Secretary," said Ed Wengryn. "I also want to thank Gov. Murphy for his support and approval of my nomination. As the grandson of Ukrainian immigrants who settled here in New Jersey as farmers, I am humbled and honored to be able to lead an agency that has been critical to the success of not only my family, but all the farming families in New Jersey. I look forward to ensuring the Department succeeds in its multifaceted missions and to serving the citizens of our great Garden State."

Since 1998, Ed Wengryn served with the New Jersey Farm Bureau, where he worked closely with farming communities. His field work included the direct marketing of farm products as well as oversight on issues such as sales taxes. His work at the Farm Bureau spanned ornamental horticulture, land use, forestry, and equine and other livestock issues.

From 2002 through 2004, he served as Confidential Assistant to Charles Kuperus, the Secretary of Agriculture for the State of New Jersey, where he coordinated the development of industry-specific action plans to improve the economic viability of New Jersey's varied agriculture sectors.

Since 2009, Wengryn has represented the private agriculture sector on the New Jersey Industry Advisory Council at the State Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, ensuring concerns of the agricultural community are considered in State emergency response plans. This work was critical for keeping agricultural businesses open and running during the recent COVID-19 public health emergency.

Rutgers Equine Science Center Horse Management Seminar virtual edition

The virtual Horse Management Seminar took place over three Tuesday evenings in February. Topics covered included Pasture Management on Day 1, Senior Horse Care on Day 2, and Health and Welfare on Day 3. The attendance was between 220-250 each evening with about 50-75 questions asked. Nine other countries in addition to the U.S. were in attendance, with new participating countries this year being the U.K., Philippines and Peru, joined by returning countries Portugal, Brazil, Canada, Russia, Nigeria and Mexico.

The videos from the Seminar will be posted on the Equine Science Center YouTube page for those who might have missed it! You can view them by typing the link below: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKZUbdHAbpJrAQXUNqaCdIw

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

Membership Application

Member Information

NAME _____ SS#/FEDERAL I.D.# _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ COUNTY _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Membership Categories

☐ Breeder — A breeder member shall be a person who owns the required interest in a broodmare or registered stallion domiciled in New Jersey; who submits an application for membership, and pays the membership dues. A breeder member shall have voting rights.

☐ Owner — An owner member shall be a person who owns a registered New Jersey- bred; who submits an application for membership, and pays the membership dues. An owner member will not have voting rights.

☐ Associate — An associate member is a person who is interested in owning, breeding, or racing horses in the State of New Jersey or in fostering economic activity through the breeding, ownership and/or racing of horses in the State of New Jersey. An associate member will not have voting rights.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Membership Dues

A check or money order for $100.00 must accompany this form. Spouses are encouraged to join the **TBANJ** under joint membership status. This fee would total $150.00 per couple. Each spouse must fill out a separate form to accompany the payment. Membership will be effective upon receipt and will be in force each calendar year and must be renewed annually.

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY
265 Hwy 36
Suite 1R
W. Long Branch, NJ 07764
(732) 542-8880
email: njbreds@gmail.com

EQUINE DISCOUNTS

Exclusive Savings for the Horse World!

odp BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

BIG ASS FANS

JOHN DEERE

SHERWIN WILLIAMS

FARMERS INSURANCE

NTRA

As a member of NTRA,
you are eligible for these discounts

Call 866-678-4289 to start saving!
EquineDiscounts.com

@myequinediscounts

North Carolina

THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

May 2024

President's message

Congratulations to Clint Lowry, Beth Muirhead, Arlee Arkofa and Nancy Shuford for their horses' wins. Also, well done to all those whose horses made it to the track.

I am sure you noticed that we still cannot bet on horse racing even though there is betting on other sports. The commission that regulates the gambling program chose to charge a one-million-dollar fee for a five-year contract to the ADW company that may want to handle horse racing betting. That is five times higher than New York. They charge $20,000 per year. Really? What the heck is going on here? I am so disappointed.

I hope someone will consider taking over the NCTA presidency. I decided that this would be my last year in this position. I will continue until December. If no one volunteers to take over the duties, the NCTA will be dissolved.

The association needs new leadership with new ideas and enthusiasm. Since I came out of retirement two years ago and started working again, I've struggled to keep up. So, I am crossing my fingers.

Thank you for all your support.

–Rebecca

Race Reviews

Frosty Ria (NC), by Juba out of Hot Creek Risin', by Bring the Heat, won at Charles Town March 6 for breeder and owner Clint Lowry. The 4-year-old North Carolina-bred gray or roan filly ran 6½ furlongs on a sloppy track in the rain in 1:24.10. Leading most of the way, she was caught at the half-mile post, took over the lead again, dueled the whole of the stretch, held sway and won by a nose.

Flat Out Flying, by Flat Out out of She'sa Tough Tiger, by Tiger Ridge, won at Penn National March 7 for breeders Beth Muirhead and Frank Coniglio. The 8-year-old chestnut gelding ran 1 1/16 miles on a good track in 1:45.28. This war horse broke quickly, led the whole way around, and cleared the pack under a drive to win by 3 ¼ lengths. It was his 18th win in 52 career starts.

Cayenne Creek, by Misremembered out of Hot Creek Risin', by Bring the Heat, won at Charles Town March 21 for breeder Clint Lowry. The 8-year-old chestnut gelding ran 6½ furlongs on a fast track. He stalked the pace in the four-path, then the three-path, gained position, was determined down the stretch and won by a neck.

Adam Coglianese

My Girl Jal winning in March at Aqueduct, her second win in a row, for breeder Nancy Shuford.

O'Conner Sunset, by Curlin out of Miss Sunset, by Into Mischief, won at Charles Town March 22 for owner Arlee Arkofa – Arkofa Farm. The 4-year-old bay ran 6½ furlongs in 1:21.31. The colt stalked the pace from the three-path through the first turn, quickened his pace after the seven-sixteenths pole, took the lead at the five-sixteenths pole, and left the pack behind to win by 3 lengths.

My Girl Jal, by Palace out of Dynamite Dame, by El Prado (Ire), won at Aqueduct March 24 for breeder Nancy Shuford. The 4-year-old chestnut filly completed 7 furlongs in 1:24.40 on a fast track. She ran from the outside, settling off the pace, gained the lead in the upper stretch, and won under a hand ride by three-quarters of a length.

Hitting the Board

February 25 – March 24, 2024

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	RESULTS
28-Feb	Frosty Ria	Charles Town	Bred & owned by Clint Lowry	2nd
29-Feb	Cayenne Creek	Charles Town	Bred by Clint Lowry	3rd
1-Mar	Kenny Had a Notion	Charles Town	Owned by Arlee Arkofa	2nd
6-Mar	Stylish Girlfriend (NC)	Penn National	Bred by A. Bauer, owned by NC Born & Bred	2nd
6-Mar	Frosty Ria	Charles Town	Bred & owned by Clint Lowry	**WINNER!**
6-Mar	Raise a Ruckus	Charles Town	Bred & owned by Clint Lowry	2nd
7-Mar	Flat Out Flying	Penn National	Bred by Beth Muirhead & Frank Coniglio	**WINNER!**
13-Mar	Only Kidding	Charles Town	Owned by Arlee Arkofa	2nd
14-Mar	Greatandgood	Charles Town	Owned by Arlee Arkofa	3rd
17-Mar	Trigger Happy	Oaklawn Park	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
20-Mar	Sag Harbor	Mahoning Valley	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd
21-Mar	Cayenne Creek	Charles Town	Bred by Clint Lowry	**WINNER!**
22-Mar	O'Conner Sunset	Charles Town	Owned by Arlee Arkofa	**WINNER!**
22-Mar	Diamond's Cabaret	Charles Town	Owned by Arlee Arkofa	2nd
23-Mar	Bourbon Diversion	Aiken - Hurdles	Bred & owned by Bill & Carrington Price	3rd
24-Mar	My Girl Jal	Aqueduct	Bred by Nancy Shuford	**WINNER!**

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

2024 MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME_____SPOUSE_____

FARM_____

MAILING ADDRESS_____

CITY_____STATE_____ZIP_____

E-MAIL_____

PHONE: HOME_____ CELL_____WORK_____

☐Jr. MEMBER - AGE 25 UNDER @ -0 ☐FARM @ $80.00 ☐SPONSOR @ $140.00 ☐CORPORATE SPONSOR @ $250.00

☐INDIVIDUAL @ $55.00

☐NON-PROFIT HORSE ASSOCIATIONS @ $20.00(covers cost of magazines)

Membership includes subscriptions to Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred Magazine

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Involvement in Thoroughbred Industry
(Please check any or all pertaining to you)

☐Breeder ☐Racing ☐ Steeplechase ☐Boarding ☐Foaling
☐Lay-ups ☐Race Training ☐Racing Fan ☐Showing ☐Show Training
☐Hunter/Jumper ☐Eventing ☐Dressage ☐Pleasure ☐Other_____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: **N.C.T.A.**
MAIL WITH COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: **Rebecca Montaldo, NCTA, P.O. Box 76., Fayetteville NC 28302**

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

(910) 261-7595 • www.ncthoroughbred.com • ncthoroughbred@gmail.com • P.O. Box 76, Fayetteville, NC 28302

Rebecca Montaldo,** president; **Jimmy Teal,** treasurer; Directors: **Arlee Arkofa, Caroline Cooper, Vince Mathews, Chris Stiller

PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

May 2024
pabred.com

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:** Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:** Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:** Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:** Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

VISIT PABRED.COM

- **Racing and breeding news**
- **PA-Bred entries/results**
- **Rules, regulations, forms**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Brian N. Sanfratello
Executive Secretary
execsec@pabred.com

Vicky Schowe
Asst. Exec. Sec.

701 E. Baltimore Pike, Ste. E
Kennett Square, PA 19348
Phone: 610-444-1050
www.pabred.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Gregory C. Newell, PE
Vice President: Douglas Black
Secretary: Deanna Manfredi
Treasurer: Katherine Rightmyer-O'Brien

Elizabeth B. Barr
Mike Chovanes VMD
Peter Giangiulio
Kathryn Goldenberg
Robert Graham
Justine Howell
Roger E. Legg
Elizabeth Merryman
Brian Schartz
Roberta L. Schneider MD
Richard Simoff
Vincenzo Tucciarone Sr.

The enduring legacy of Bill Brady

By Nikki Sherman

Barbara Weidl/Equi-Photo

When All American Rod roared to a 3¼-length victory at 35-1 in his career debut Feb. 6 at Parx Racing, emotions surged as his connections celebrated the upset win. There were many reasons why, with the most obvious being that it was the first career win for new owners Stephanie and Mike Yekenchik, who race under the name Isaiah 4031 Racing Stable. But behind the scenes, everyone involved with the 3-year-old Rimrod gelding was remembering All American Rod's breeder, William "Bill" Brady of R H Breeding.

Brady had been a longtime fixture in the lives of Castle Rock Farm owner Peter Giangiulio and manager June Hillman, as well as trainer Dee Curry. When he passed unexpectedly in July 2023, it hit his family and friends hard. He left behind his wife of 58 years, Kathleen, as well as sons Michael, Mark and Brian, and

Bill Brady continued from page 1

eight grandchildren. That's without even mentioning his large but close extended family, a rarity in today's age.

Bill threw himself into everything he loved, including playing golf, volunteering, cheering on all of "his" Philadelphia sports teams (especially the Flyers and Phillies), and perhaps most importantly, his love of horse racing. Brady's family made sure to include his membership in the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association in his obituary.

Brady had several broodmares at Castle Rock Farm and a few racehorses with Curry. His family wasn't sure how to handle his beloved horses, so they raced one horse under The Estate of William P. Brady. Whatsagizmo won one week after Brady passed away, and Curry was in tears in the winner's circle. She specifically asked if the track photographers in the Equi-Photo office could add a notation to the top of the win photo: "It was an Honor to Give You One More Win."

While Brady's family was happy that his homebred had won a race, the reminder of their recent loss became too painful and they made the difficult decision to disperse his horses. That was when Hillman and Curry lept into action. They were able to find homes for all of his horses, either for permanent retirement or new broodmare/racing owners.

Curry was looking for potential buyers of the youngsters and racehorses when she spoke to longtime jockey agent Dave Yannuzzi. He suggested reaching out to his daughter Stephanie Yekenchik, who, along with her husband Mike, ran two farms: a horse boarding stable called The Jennings Farm and an animal/produce farm named Medford Cattle Farms.

"The thing is, I wanted nothing to do with racing," Yekenchik admitted. "My dad was an agent before he retired and my grandfather [Joe Yannuzzi] was a trainer. I didn't have a high opinion of racing and was way more into show horses."

One of Yekenchik's concerns was for the welfare of the racehorses, especially when they finished racing. However, Curry has had a hand in Thoroughbred aftercare for a long time and reassured her that there was no need to worry.

"I told Stephanie that we always find homes for the horses when they're ready," Curry explained. "Parx has the

A few words from the Executive Secretary

Congrats to the Blackstone Farm-bred Roses for Debra, who came from off the pace to win the Grade 3 Giant's Causeway Stakes at Keeneland on April 13 going away! This was her first outing in 2024 and she did not disappoint. Next out could be the Grade 2 Intercontinental Stakes or the Grade 1 Jaipur against the boys at Belmont weekend at Saratoga. Good luck!

Also, a shout out to Disco Ebo, bred by St. Omer's Farm and a daughter of PA sire Weigelia, who went gate-to-wire winning the Primonetta Stakes at Laurel on April 13. Don't wait to become part of the action, go to pabred.com and view the 2024 Stallion Directory. While you're there, check out the new stallions standing in 2024. Breed to a PA stallion and receive 40% in Breeder Awards, up to 40% in Owner Bonuses, eligibility for the PA-Sired, PA-Bred Series, and hundreds of Restricted Races. Wow!

The PA-Sired PA-Bred series has been expanded for foals of 2022 to include 3yos. The nomination fee is now $1,000 for those who have purchased 2yos until June 30. Replacing the trainer bonus this year will be a $50,000 breeder bonus for horses that finish first, second and third in total points for the series: $25,000 for first, $15,000 for second and $10,000 for third.

By now you should be familiar with the online registration system on our website. If you are still using paper registrations, please make sure you forward a signed copy of the Code of Ethics, which is attached to the registration form.

All broodmare domicile forms should have already been entered online for the 2024 foaling season, except for public sales and breed backs. Please submit your form when your mare enters the state. These domicile reports are MANDATORY and if not completed, your foal could be denied PA-Bred registration. As usual, please contact our office with any questions you may have.

Pennsylvania is the only place to Breed & Race! Go Pa!!

Contact Information:

State Horse Racing Commission
Harrisburg, PA • 717-787-1942

Parx Racing
Bensalem, PA • 215-639-9000

Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course
Grantville, PA • 717-469-2211

Presque Isle Downs & Casino
Erie, PA • 866-374-3386

Pennsylvania HBPA
Grantville, PA • 717-469-2970

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association
Bensalem, PA • 215-638-2012

THE PA-BRED PREMIUM
EARN MORE!
JOIN THE PHBA

Whether you are currently a breeder or an owner, or if you are just considering getting involved in this exciting industry, there are many reasons to join the PHBA. The PHBA is devoted to those involved in Pennsylvania's Thoroughbred breeding industry. A not-for-profit organization founded in 1948, we provide a number of services to members, including informational assistance, educational opportunities and a variety of social events.

The goal of the organization is to advocate on behalf of the state's breeding industry. We are mandated by statute as administrator of the Pennsylvania Breeding Fund program, and as official registrar of the Pennsylvania-Bred roster of eligible program participants.

Working with industry leaders over the years, PHBA has achieved several goals that have brought reform and benefits to breeders, owners, racetracks and the public. The PHBA is vital to everyone involved in breeding throughout Pennsylvania. Your support and participation can help Pennsylvania's breeding industry continue to grow and prosper.

Turning for Home program or we could rehome them ourselves. That seemed to ease her mind."

One day in church, Stephanie's husband Mike read a Bible verse and it instantly made him think of horses racing. Isaiah 40:31 states, "They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." The couple knew they had found a name for their racing entity: Isaiah 4031 Racing Stable.

Hillman absolutely loved the name. "Bill was a man of faith so the Bible reference in their stable name is significant."

All American Rod's career debut on that fateful Parx afternoon in February was Isaiah 4031 Racing Stable's fourth as an owner, coming a few weeks after just missing a win with another horse from Brady's breeding legacy, the Rimrod gelding Dropline.

"Never in a million years did I think he was going to win," Yekenchik posted on her Facebook page, and then added later, "He's just so gritty!"

Curry found herself feeling the power and presence of Bill Brady that day. All American Rod is a half-brother to Whatsagizmo. Hillman felt it in her heart as well.

"I know Dee talks about it all the time," she said. "I truly believe he is looking down on the horses and maybe has a hand in the success they have had since his passing. We are all so proud that we were able to keep so many of them on the same path they would have been on if he was still alive. We feel like it is fate."

Less than three weeks later, Dropline strongly drew away to a 5½-length Parx maiden special weight victory.

And then on March 6, All American Rod ran against older, more experienced horses in an allowance at Parx. Again a longshot, he ran his heart out and won by a length at 18-1. The Yekenchiks were rendered speechless; they had been prepared for the race to be a learning experience, not a win.

"For some reason, there haven't been any races in the condition book for straight 3-year-olds," Curry lamented. "I thought we had no chance but there were no other options so we decided to give it a shot. Look at his birth date - May 13th - he's still biologically a 2-year-old!"

Then Curry realized something special. Brady's last wins with her as trainer under his own R H Breeding name had been with Late to the Show almost exactly two years prior, on March 15, 2022, and Ninja Prize, on March 21, 2023. She knew at that moment, it was Bill watching from above.

Hillman misses Brady but enjoys caring for his broodmares that are still at Castle Rock Farm. His family even gifted her ownership of a Rimrod mare named Lemon Strudel.

"I am truly honored to have known Bill Brady," she said. "He was the kindest man. I was always happy to see him and he was the type of owner we need more of in racing. I feel a great sense of peace from helping to be a part of continuing his legacy with his horses."

PA-Bred Fund Statistics: Top Earners

January 1 through February 29, 2024

LEADING EARNERS - TOTAL AWARDS

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total	Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total
Warriors Reward	62,601	23,719	86,320	Barbara Wheeler	21,056	0	21,056
Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	43,160	29,862	73,022	Fox Tale	18,687	2,100	20,787
Steven W. Young Racing LLC	38,147	15,985	54,132	Maria M. Haire	18,873	1,610	20,483
Northview Stallion Station Inc.	0	54,032	54,032	Richard Molineaux	18,883	0	18,883
Pewter Stable	35,372	9,281	44,653	Equivine Farm LLC	16,944	0	16,944
Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	12,201	26,350	38,551	Dennis Johnson	16,800	0	16,800
Blackstone Farm LLC	37,924	0	37,924	Cynthia M. Bartkowski	16,208	0	16,208
William P. Brady Estate	34,128	0	34,128	Luana J. Johnson	11,725	4,206	15,931
St. Omer's Farm	29,064	0	29,064	Forgotten Land Investments Inc.	15,848	0	15,848
Arrowwood Farm Inc	28,655	0	28,655	Peter Giangiulio	15,740	0	15,740
Chuck Russo	18,385	4,596	22,981	Shooting Star Stable	15,486	0	15,486
Glenn E. Brok LLC	17,915	3,234	21,149	William J. Solomon VMD	4,325	9,898	14,223

LEADING STALLIONS

Fund Money includes Stallion Awards only

Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total	Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Uptowncharlybrown	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	75	29,862	Albert the Great	William J. Solomon VMD	6	4,189
Weigelia	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	38	26,034	Medallist	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	6	3,065
Warrior's Reward	Warriors Reward	55	23,719	Eastwood	Glenn E. Brok LLC	8	2,803
Uncle Lino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	45	23,432	Well Spelled	Godstone Farm LP	15	2,552
Peace and Justice	Steven W. Young Racing LLC	34	15,985	Rimrod	George Strawbridge Jr dba	3	2,400
Jump Start	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	43	13,486	Almasty	William J. Solomon VMD	1	2,400
Hoppertunity	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	35	10,718	Lord Shanakill	William J. Solomon VMD	13	2,228
Winchill	Pewter Stable	29	9,281	Black Cry	Fox Tale	1	2,100
Social Inclusion	Social Inclusion Partners LLC	17	7,736	Xixixi	Barbara A. Rickline	7	2,087
Red Vine	DB Dojo LLC	9	4,829	Bullsbay	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	5	2,031
Il Villano	Chuck Russo	4	4,596	Boisterous	Tommy Town Thoroughbreds LLC	17	1,816
Golddigger's Boy	Luana J. Johnson	10	4,206	Misbah	Godstone Farm LP	2	1,764

LEADING HORSES

Fund Money includes: PA-Bred Races, Breeder and Stallion Awards and PA-Bred Owner-Bonus Payments

Horse	Pedigree	Breeder	Races	Stakes	Breeder Award	Stallion Award	Bonus	Total
Johnny Ritt *	Weigelia - C J's Little Girl	Barbara Wheeler	3	0	21,056	5,264	15,040	41,360
Disco Ebo *	Weigelia - Katarica Disco	St. Omer's Farm	1	0	18,480	4,620	13,200	36,300
Respirator *	Peace and Justice - La Padrina	Dennis Johnson	2	0	16,800	4,200	12,000	33,000
Dropline *	Uncle Lino - Sour Lemon Drop	William P. Brady Estate	1	0	16,800	4,200	12,000	33,000
Ron Don Scorese	Normandy Invasion - Siege	Hope Hill Farm	2	0	13,104	0	18,720	31,824
In Spades *	Peace and Justice - Lady Kierkegaard	Steven W. Young Racing LLC	2	0	13,832	3,458	9,880	27,170
Neighbelline *	Social Inclusion - Royalaspen	Equivine Farm LLC	2	0	12,544	3,136	8,960	24,640
Big Boys Answer *	Uptowncharlybrown - Empires Answer	Cavanaugh Breen Farm LLC	2	0	12,320	3,080	8,800	24,200
Social Lady *	Social Inclusion - Graemy	Glenn E. Brok LLC	2	0	15,200	3,800	4,000	23,000
Golden Tabby	Golden Lad - Macroeconomics	Michael Raymond Anspach	2	0	8,960	0	12,800	21,760
Windsor Gold	Golden Lad - English Mum	Shooting Star Stable	1	0	8,736	0	12,480	21,216
Back Forty	Paynter - Raging Smoke	Harry C. Nye III	2	0	10,350	0	10,350	20,700
Maximus Meridius	Maximus Mischief - Quiet Virtue	Westerly Farm LLC	1	0	8,400	0	12,000	20,400
Clancy O'Toole	Collected - Silver Diva	Forgotten Land Investments Inc	1	0	8,400	0	12,000	20,400
Powwa of Love *	Uptowncharlybrown - Joyce's Angel	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	1	0	10,080	2,520	7,200	19,800
Gryphon's Wings *	Warrior's Reward - Veloce Canzone	John A. Witte	2	0	10,128	2,532	6,720	19,380
Smart and Fast	Congrats - Smart Woman	Mesingw Farm LLC	3	0	8,092	0	11,260	19,352
Magicnthemoonlight	Tapiture - Moonlight Basin	Warriors Reward	3	0	10,680	0	8,400	19,080
Downtownchalybrown *	Uptowncharlybrown - Torchwood	Godric LLC	1	0	10,800	2,700	5,400	18,900
Matty Bo *	Eastwood - Matinee Babe	Designated Hitters Racing LLC	4	0	9,408	2,352	6,720	18,480
Wilkinson Warrior *	Warrior's Reward - Mama Jones	Patricia L. Chapman	2	0	9,408	2,352	6,720	18,480
Bay Bay Birdie *	Weigelia - Red Bank Robin	Cynthia M. Bartkowski	1	0	9,408	2,352	6,720	18,480
Word On a Wing *	Winchill - Merry's Pegasus	Pewter Stable	2	0	9,408	2,352	6,720	18,480
Breezy Dance *	Hoppertunity - Dances On Water	John E. Parker	2	0	9,408	2,352	6,720	18,480

*Denotes PA-sired

South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024

Racing Across the Nation

On Feb. 19, **Yankee Dollar** recorded her second career stakes when winning the Molly P for the second year in a row at Turf Paradise. Yankee Dollar stalked the leaders from the inside before moving out to the six-path in the stretch. In a hard drive, she reached the wire a head in front. On March 14, she captured her second stakes win in a row when taking the Queen of the Green Stakes, also at Turf Paradise. She followed the same path, pressing the leaders from the inside before angling out and running them down in the stretch to cross the finish line 1¾ lengths in front. Yankee Dollar was prepared for racing by Wes Carter in Bamber.

On March 2, **Camaro Z**, a 3-year-old son of Liam's Map, proved best in a hard fought battle to the wire in the Black Gold Stakes at Fair Grounds. Camaro Z had to force his way through heavy traffic at the three-sixteenths pole, then battled to the wire with another and won by a neck. Camaro Z was prepared for his racing career by Cary Frommer in Aiken before being sold at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Two-Year-Olds in Training Sale in 2023.

Lonesome Boy proved much the best in the City of Brotherly Love Stakes at Parx Racing March 5. This 3-year-old colt by Nationhood learned his early lessons from Randy and Kala Rentz at their training center in Erhardt. In this stakes, Lonesome Boy pressed the leader before taking control at the top of the stretch and drawing away, crossing the finish line 6¾ lengths in front. He returned to finish fourth of 12 in the Grade 2 Wood Memorial Stakes April 6 at Aqueduct at 80-1.

Racing Action Returns

The sun was shining and an enthusiasm for racing filled the air as the 81st running of the Aiken Trials took place March 16. Four Thoroughbred trials were held - two for 2-year-olds and two for older horses.

The first trial, The Coward Trophy, was won by Belle of the South, a 2-year-old filly owned by Steve Bacon, trained by Brad Stauffer and ridden by Kat Hogan.

Chado won The Gaver Trophy. This 2-year-old colt is owned by SCTOBA Board Member Debby McCutchen, trained by her husband, Bobby, and was ridden by Brody Durr, son of SCTOBA members Travis and Ashley Durr. These 2-year-old trials are a great experience for young horses headed to Keeneland.

The City of Aiken Trophy for older horses was won by R. Marie Farms LLC's 5-year-old He Is Bonafide, trained by Rebecca Hurt and ridden by Kathleen Wilson.

The last trial of the day, The Iselin Hall of Fame Trophy, was captured by Young Racing Stable's Tiz the Prince, trained by Bill Allyn and ridden by Lizzie Quinn. This 3-year-old colt will soon head to New York to race at Aqueduct.

Aiken Steeplechase kicks off NSA Season

While the rain was heavy at times Friday night, Saturday, March 23, had clear skies and plenty of breeze for the Aiken Spring Steeplechase. This meet kicked off the 2024 National Steeplechase Association season. A flat race began the day, and five steeplechase events followed, run at 2⅛ miles over National Hurdles. The crowd exceeded 25,000, setting a record attendance.

The training flat race, The James W. Maloney, was captured by Upland Flats Racing's Hidden Path, trained by Richard Hendriks and ridden by Harrison Beswick. The first race over jumps, The G.W. Bostwick, was for maidens and the winner was Secret Soulmate. He is owned by Thomas Rice and was saddled by Leslie Young. The jockey was Jamie Bargary.

Frank Mullins, President of the Aiken Steeplechase Association, found himself in the winner's circle following The Charles S. Bird III, an overnight handicap. Along with Jordan Wycoff, he owns Clara Belle, who beat the boys. Clara Belle is trained by Keri Brion and was ridden by Bernie Dalton.

The winner of the Ford D. Conger, another maiden hurdle race, Chef d'Etat (Ire), is owned by SCTOBA member Pierre Manigault's Hurricana Farm and is trained by SCTOBA member Arch Kingsley. Chef d'Etat was ridden to victory by Parker Hendriks.

The wife and husband team of Kate and Bernie Dalton (also SCTOBA members) train and rode Haint Blue (Fr), the winner of The Joe R. Blanchard, a maiden hurdle race. The French-bred mare is owned by Layton Register.

In the feature race of the day, the $35,000 The Imperial Cup, West Newton (GB) proved best. The team of Upland Flats Racing, Richard Hendriks and Harrison Beswick combined for the win, their second victory of the day.

Elloree Trials Returns

After taking last year off, the Elloree Trials returned this year. It was held at Franklin "Goree" Smith's Elloree Training Center March 23.

Once again, the 59th running of the Elloree Trials gave ample evidence that South Carolinians do indeed love horse racing by what appeared to be a record crowd in attendance.

Fans witnessed eight exciting and competitive races, six for Thoroughbreds, while enjoying partly cloudy skies and mild temperatures.

There was a 2-year-old trial each for fillies and colts. The filly division was won by Debby McCutchen's Vodka With a Twist, trained by Debby's son, Jason, with rider Demitrus Chandler. El Mayo, owned by Rodrigo Preciado and saddled by Travis Durr, gave Chandler his second win for the day.

Three trials were run for maidens, two for 3-year-olds. Maintain proved best in the first. Owned by Walker McCutchen and trained by Jason McCutchen (his second win of the day), Maintain was ridden by Brody Durr. Next out was Shuler Stables' 5-year-old mare Sweet Windsor. Trained by Robbie Shuler, Sweet Windsor was ridden by Lamont Smalls. Dream Leader crossed the finish line first in her race. The 3-year-old filly is owned by Brian Griffith, trained by Cody Durr and was ridden by Robby Ranson.

The day's feature, The Elloree Cup, was a Durr family affair. The winner, Academic Weapon, is owned by Mason Durr and was prepared for this race by Travis Durr and ridden by Travis' son Brody, who recorded his second win.

South Carolina-trained winners

Horse	*Training Center*	*Date*	*Track*	*Type of Race*
YANKEE DOLLAR	Wes Carter Tng Ctr	02/19/24	Turf Paradise	Molly P S
Miss Fussy Pants	Elloree Tng Ctr	02/22/24	Mahoning Valley	Allowance
Miss Stones	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	02/22/24	CharlesTown	Allowance
Lode of Blarney	Elloree Tng Ctr	02/24/24	Fonner Park	Allowance
Donegal Surges	Elloree Tng Ctr	02/24/24	Aqueduct	Allowance
Click to Confirm	Custom Care - D. Freyer	02/25/24	Laurel Park	Starter
Center Court Champ	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	02/28/24	Parx Racing	Allowance
I Know Map	Rent Farm Tng Ctr	03/01/24	Laurel Park	Allowance
Rainbowsnsunshine	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	03/02/24	Charles Town	Maiden Special Weight
CAMARO Z	Aiken - Cary Frommer	03/03/24	Fair Grounds	Black Gold S
LONESOME BOY	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	03/05/24	Parx Racing	City of Brotherly Love S
All American Rod	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	03/06/24	Parx Racing	Allowance
Glowing Humor	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	03/06/24	Penn National	Maiden Special Weight
Miss Stones	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	03/08/24	Charles Town	Allowance
Reason Over Riches	Kirkwood Stables	03/08/24	Sam Houston	Allowance
Paula's Surprise	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	03/08/24	Penn National	Allowance
Lode of Blarney	Elloree Tng Ctr	03/09/24	Fonner Park	Allowance
Koufax	Elloree Tng Ctr	03/09/24	Fair Grounds	Allowance
Great Navigator	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	03/10/24	Gulfstream Park	Allowance
Center Court Champ	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	03/13/24	Parx Racing	Allowance
Under the Bed	McCutchen Tng Ctr	03/13/24	Turfway Park	Allowance
YANKEE DOLLAR	Wes Carter Tng Ctr	03/14/24	Turf Paradise	Queen of the Green S
Bump N Run	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	03/15/24	Laurel Park	Allowance
Union Fleet	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	03/17/24	Laurel Park	Allowance
Single Lady	Wes Carter Tng Ctr	03/18/24	Turf Paradise	Allowance

VIRGINIA

2023 VIRGINIA THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONS TO BE RECOGNIZED AT MAY 3 AWARDS CEREMONY

Diamond T Racing and Iapetus Racing's Gigante will be recognized as 2023 Virginia-Bred Horse of the Year at the Virginia Thoroughbred Association's annual awards night scheduled for Friday May 3 at Great Meadow in The Plains, site of the Virginia Gold Cup the following day. The Steve Asmussen trainee also earned Three-Year-Old Colt Champion honors based on an outstanding sophomore campaign in which he earned $800,975.

Of four stakes wins Gigante recorded, the biggest came in the Grade 2 Secretariat Stakes at Colonial Downs over the Secretariat Turf Course, on the 50th anniversary of Big Red's record-breaking Triple Crown sweep. The Steve Asmussen trainee won that $500,000 stakes in thrilling come from behind style by a neck over Nagirroc at 23-1 odds with Javier Castellano up. Gigante recorded a trio of other stakes wins last year — in the Caesars Handicap at Horsehoe Indy, Commonwealth Turf at Churchill and Woodchopper at Fair Grounds December 30 to close out the year. He is out of the Empire Maker mare, Summertime Green. Breeder Ann Mudge Backer and Smitten Farm will accept both awards May 3.

Three-Year-Old Filly Champion honors will be awarded to Susan Moulton's Tufani who earned $173,942 in purse money last year courtesy of four wins. The Distorted Humor filly prevailed in a maiden special weight at Delaware, a Laurel allowance and in a pair at Fair Grounds — a November 18 allowance and the December 30 Pago Hop Stakes. The Michael Stidham trainee also took second in the Brookmeade Stakes at Colonial. Tufani was bred by Chance Farm and Distorted Humor Syndicate and is out of the Mineshaft mare, Windhoek.

Country Life Farm's Galilei will receive honors as Virginia-Bred Older Mare Champion. Bred by Audley Farm Equine — who was named Co-Breeder of the Year with Ann Backer — the daughter of Lemon Drop Kid is a Michael Trombetta trainee who won the Brookmeade Stakes at Colonial by edging Tufani by three-quarters of a length. Galilei finished third as well in the Nellie Mae Cox Stakes and earned $109,990 from seven starts last year.

2023 Virginia-Bred Horse of the Year Gigante (inside) captures the G2 Secretariat Stakes at Colonial Downs (Coady Photography)

Virginia-Bred Older Horse Honors go to Double B Racing Stables' Repo Rocks who had four stakes wins from six starts in 2023. The now 6-year-old Tapiture gelding was best in a pair of Grade 3's — the Westchester at Belmont and the Toboggan at Aqueduct — in addition to the Blitzen Stakes at Parx and the Stymie at Aqueduct. The Jamie Ness trainee was bred by Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin III and has career winnings of $803,371.

D. Hatman Thoroughbreds & Kingdom Bloodstock's Determined Kingdom will collect a trophy for Virginia-Bred Colt Turf Sprint Champion based on two big stakes wins in New Kent — in the Meadow Stable and Punch Line — his third and fourth overall stakes wins at Colonial. He previously scored in the 2022 Punch Line and 2021 Jamestown. The Animal Kingdom gelding is trained by Phil Schoenthal and was bred by Audley Farm Equine. 2023 earnings of $199,240 pushed his career tally to $448,189.

Owner/breeder Sam English III's Chambeau had a superb 2023 summer at Colonial Downs, winning a stakes pair and an allowance, and has been named Virgnia-Bred Turf Sprint Champion as a result. The now 7-year-old Karakontie mare captured the Tyson Gilpin/Glenn Petty and

Camptown Stakes and was trained by Anthony Aguirre in 2023. Chambeau, who did not begin competing until the age of five, earned $264,400 from five starts.

Cash is King and LC Racing's Carmelina will be recognized as 2023 Virginia-Certified Filly Champion. The daughter of Maximus Mischief, who had three stakes wins as a two-year-old last year, is trained by Robert Reid and was bred by Lilith Boucher. Carmelina connected at Colonial in the Keswick Stakes, at Penn National in the Shamrock Rose and at Laurel in the Gin Talking. She is out of Complete St by St. Averil.

Virginia-Certified Colt Champion honors go to Woodslane Farm's Wolfie's Dynaghost who had five wins from eight starts, good for earnings of $541,544. The 6-year-old Ghostzapper gelding got his picture taken in three stakes — the Kentucky Cup Classic and Prarie Bayou at Turfway and the Autumn Stakes at Woodbine. Jonathan Thomas trains the consistent competitor whose career bankroll is approaching seven-digit status at $892,889.

Five-year-old New York-bred Kant Hurry Love powered home to four wins and three runner-up finishes in 2023, earning the title of Virginia-Owned Champion. Ken Wheeler, Jr. will accept hardware on behalf of his five-year-old mare who captured three allowance races at Aqueduct and won the Dancin Renee Stakes as well. She was runner-up in the Garland of Roses Stakes and Union Avenue Handicap.

Virginia-Bred Two-Year-Old Champion Low Mileage is owned by Bird & Grady, LLC and is trained by John Salzman. Bred by Audley Farm Equine, the Mineshaft filly won the Jamestown Stakes by 3¼ lengths and also scored a maiden special weight win at Laurel. She earned $126,000 in her freshman campaign.

Neil Morris, who had five wins at the Colonial Downs summer meet with a combination of jumpers and flat horses, will be recognized as Virginia-Based Trainer of the Meet. Morris scored with steeplechasers Junonia, Animal Kingston and Dante's Fire, jumper Riptide Rock who won a two-mile race on the flat, and Gospel Way who prevailed in a $87,500 flat allowance.

Virginia Co-Breeders of the Meet, noted above, were Smitten Farm (Gigante) and Audley Farm Equine (Low Mileage, Galilei and Determined Kingdom).

Details on the May 3 Awards Night and May 4 Virginia Gold Cup can be found at vabred.org.

2023 Virgnia-Bred Older Mare Champion Galilei captures the Brookmeade Stakes at Colonial Downs (Coady Photography)

2023 Virginia-Bred Turf Sprinter Champion Chambeau is pictured after winning the Gilpin/ Petty Stakes at Colonial Downs (VEA photo)

2023 Virginia-Bred 2-Year-Old Champion Low Mileage prevails in the Jamestown Stakes (Coady Photography).

Virginia Thoroughbred Association

President: Amy Moore Vice-President: Wayne VanSant Treasurer: Turner Kobayashi Past President: Susan Cooney
Directors: Christina Applegate, Donna Dennehy, Janet de Teran, Alan Hutchinson, Larry Johnson, Chris Kuhn, Diane Manning, Diana McClure, Sara Miller, Patricia Ramey, Brooke Royster, Pat Shepherd, Laura Smith, Wayne Chatfield Taylor

Visit www.vabred.org–the best source for Virginia breeding and racing news
For more information on the Virginia Breeders Fund or Virginia Stakes Program, please contact the VTA.
250 West Main Street, Suite 100, Charlottesville, VA 22902 | (434) 977-3716

Virginia Breeders Fund

West Virginia
THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Newsletter May 2024

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association Awards 2023

By Jeff Gilleas

Far too often we overlook the faithful guardians of our sport. But not this day! With calloused hands and humble appearance, they've endured endless nights and battled atrocious odds, for love of the game.

The West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association Awards are the highest equine honors for achievements in the state. Sunday, March 10, on the third floor ballroom of the Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races, politicians, owners, trainers and jockeys gathered to pay respect to the lifeblood of the industry. . . the breeders!

Winning just one accolade is truly an impressive and rare accomplishment. Last year, horsewoman Cyndy McKee stepped on the stage to represent her late husband John, Beau Ridge Farm mastermind, and accept 2022 Breeders Association Statuettes for Breeder of the Year, Stallion of the Year and Broodmare of the Year.

TWO-YEAR-OLD CHAMPION FILLY
Direct the Cat

Sometimes miracles can be duplicated. Bear witness a farm continually producing individuals considered not luxuriously priced, but managing to compete a cut above the rest.

Possessing exhilarating speed, Direct the Cat, a daughter of Beau Ridge freshman sire Redirect out of stakes winner Cat Thats Grey, by Fiber Sonde, swept through her division leaving no question as to her superiority. The winner of the Rachel's Turn, WV Triple Crown Nutrition Breeders Classic and James and Eleanor Casey Memorial Stakes is owned/trained by Cyndy McKee and bred by John McKee.

TWO-YEAR-OLD CHAMPION MALE
Jubawithatwist

Jubawithatwist was in a talented rhythm from his successful debut in June, thru sequential victories in the Henry Mercer Memorial, WV Vincent Moscarelli Memorial Breeders Classic and West Virginia Futurity. The light-colored roan by Juba, out of multiple stakes winner Romantic Cork, by Denis of Cork, was bred by John Casey and races for his devoted partner, owner-trainer Kristy Petty.

Jubawithatwist's freshman season was precocious, and he was never off the board in six starts, including three trips out of town.

THREE-YEAR-OLD CO-CHAMPION FILLIES
Great Spirit
Jubaslilballerina

Great Spirit is a story about dreams and sibling glory. The daughter of Great Notion out of Happy Numbers (by Polish Numbers) is a half-sister to Get the Sensation, who met her untimely demise on the track following triumphs in the Its Binn Too Long and Fancy Buckles Stakes.

Owned by breeder Jill Daniel, Great Spirit won the Fancy Buckles and Sylvia Bishop Memorial, with in-the-money efforts in the Its Binn Too Long, Autumn, and Blue and Gold Stakes. The stylishly constructed filly was trained by Crystal Pickett and earned in the vicinity of $200,000.

Duel winners in the filly class demonstrated genuine parity as Jubaslilballerina, a daughter of Juba out of Misty Ballerina (by Into Mischief) transcended most of her adversaries on the racetrack. The principal characteristics of consistency and durability continue to shine through in her sire's progeny.

Owned by Casey's Legacy and trained by Ronnie Sigler, Jubaslilballerina indelible moment came in the WV Department of

Tourism Breeders Classic. In that effort, the Taylor Mountain Farm homebred grappled throughout to record a career best speed figure and return a whopping $67.80.

THREE-YEAR-OLD CHAMPION MALE
CHAMPION MALE SPRINTER
Little Roo Roo

Veteran know-how is supposed to give an edge in competitive events, however youthful energy and persistence can sometimes master that attribute. Little Roo Roo, a son of Limehouse out of Pepper Bay (by Bop) is an overachiever owned and trained by Michael Jones Jr. His active schedule of eight wins in 12 starts included consecutire scores in the Coin Collector, It's Only Money and Robert G. Leavitt Stakes.

A frightful trip in the Dash for Cash on Breeders Classics night, as the 4-5 favorite, did not weaken the resolve of voters who remained loyal to the Sherwood Bryant-bred gelding.

CHAMPION OLDER FILLY/MARE
Someday Is Today

When time comes to render a decision, is it important to evaluate the totality of a body of work or concentrated demonstration of brilliance? In the case of Someday Is Today, a chestnut daughter of Carpe Diem out of Any Day Now (by Smart Strike), it was late season heroics that sorted out group bragging rights.

Victories in the WV Roger Ramey Breeders Classic Distaff and My Sister Pearl Stakes furnished conclusiveness to a year-long production at age 5. Hopefully, the volatile artist owned by Andrew Warren, trained by Anthony Farrior and bred by Schiano Racing and Carpe Diem Syndicate has a sequel in store for us.

CHAMPION FEMALE SPRINTER
Stryda

Stryda helped redefine the word fast by employing explosive acceleration leaving the starting gate. The stocky 3-year-old daughter of Great Notion out of Maryland's Love (by Not For Love) elevated the hearts and psyche of trainer Jamey Johnson and his fiance, Amber.

Multiple allowance wins and a compelling score in the $75,000 Autumn Stakes lauded Maryland leading sire Great Notion, who remains a popular alternative to West Virginia stallions. Title-holders Coastal Mission, Great Spirit and Stryda were dynastic "Keepers of his Flame."

HORSE OF THE YEAR
CHAMPION OLDER MALE
Coastal Mission

Unfortunately horses can't vocalize how they feel or what they like, but we know they can express themselves through actions.

Coastal Mission continued trainer Jeff Runco's enthusiastic reign in this lofty category.

A son of Great Notion out of Smart Crowd (by Crowd Pleaser) had a campaign of brilliance that included a win versus some of the nation's best sprinters in the Russell Road Stakes, and a victory, while needing only second gear, in the Sam Huff West Virginia Breeders Classic.

The standout won eight of 10 starts, and his name, like many Coleswood Farm (Jeff and Susan Runco) horses, depicts the couple's bond they have to their son, Jeremy, who serves in the United States Coast Guard.

Broodmare of the Year
Smart Crowd

Owner: Susan Runco

Sire of the Year
Juba

Owner: Taylor Mountain Farm

Breeder of the Year:
John D. McKee

Most in attendance at the Breeders Awards banquet have spent a lifetime in partnership with racehorses, and realize their spirit of generosity has no equal. Of interest to all is to assure that relationship never be taken for granted or relevance in the world of sports allowed to wither away. In commemoration we thank: Dennis Bybee, John Casey and John McKee. A warrior with a cause is a formidable adversary!

A debt of gratitude goes out to Judy Grams, Mary Sell and Nicole Brown for all their hard work in the awards' presentation.

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association

P.O. Box 626, Charles Town, WV 25414
Phone: (304) 728-6868
Fax: (304) 724-7870
www.wvtba.com
Office location:
202 East Liberty St.,Charles Town, WV 25414.
Hours: 9-1 pm, Tuesday through Saturday

Cynthia McKee, ***President***
Mary Sell, ***Vice-President***
Nicole Brown, ***Treasurer***
Judy Grams, ***Secretary***

Directors: Tim Collins, Javier Contreras, Leslie Cromer, Karen Freer, John Funkhouser, Elizabeth Meehan, David Walters

Benefits of Owning a WV-Bred and/or -Sired racehorse
Some of the best incentives in the nation!

- A minimum of three accredited races are written every day at Charles Town exclusively for registered WV-bred and/or -sired horses.
- West Virginia has the only program in the country that permits horses to win state-bred races that do not count against the horse's lifetime open conditions.
- The WV Thoroughbred Development Fund distributes over $4.5 million to breeders, owners, and stallion owners of accredited WV-bred and/or -sired horses based the horse's annual earnings at Charles Town and Mountaineer Park racetracks.
- The West Virginia Breeders Classics pays out almost $1 million in purses for WV-bred and/or -sired horses. It is held annually on the second Saturday in October.
- $800,000 in purses are allocated for up to 16 WV accredited stakes races during the year.
- Supplemental Purse Awards of up to 10% of the winner's share of the purse to the owner, breeder, and/or sire owner of the accredited WV-bred and/or -sired winner.
- West Virginia offers year-round racing with approximately 300 race days per year.

Chasing
Brought to you by the Temple Gwathmey Steeplechase Foundation

Virginia Gold Cup adds Grade 1 to NSA Calendar

By Tod Marks, National Steeplechase Association

The Virginia Gold Cup Association revealed plans for a new Grade 1 fixture to be run as part of the sensational $430,000 card at Great Meadow Race Course in The Plains, Va. on May 4. The $150,000 Commonwealth Cup will be contested as a handicap hurdle stake for four-year-olds and up at 2 1/8 miles over a dozen national fences.

The race creates an unprecedented one-two punch for the National Steeplechase Association, with Grade 1 stakes run on consecutive Saturdays. On May 11, seven days after the Commonwealth Cup, Percy Warner Park in Nashville plays host to the $200,000 Calvin Houghland Iroquois, the centerpiece of the spring calendar. Unlike the Commonwealth Cup, the Iroquois is contested as a weight-for-age event and, at a distance of three miles, making it the longest hurdle stakes of the year. It's the first time the NSA has had back-to-back G1s in the spring.

To sweeten the pot and encourage owners and trainers on both sides of the Atlantic to participate in this two-state racing extravaganza, officials in Tennessee have bumped up total purses to $475,000, including two $40,000 Sport of Kings maiden special weights hurdles and a $45,000 handicap for horses rated at 120 or less (up from $35,000 last season). Other card highlights include the $75,000 Green Pastures novice stakes and $50,000 Margaret Currey Henley filly & mare stakes.

Besides the Commonwealth Cup, which used to be contested as the G2 David Semmes Memorial, there are two additional stakes on the Gold Cup card. The prestigious

$75,000 Virginia Gold Cup is one of the foremost timber stakes of the year. The $50,000 Speedy Smithwick Memorial remains a restricted four-year-old stakes over hurdles. The Great Meadow Steeplethon has been rechristened after Semmes, a venerated Virginia horseman and timber racing enthusiast who died in 2009.

NSA Director of Racing Bill Gallo said he hopes the stakes-laden cards will provide extra inducements to European horsemen such as the legendary Willie Mullins (who shipped over Scaramanga to win the 2023 Iroquois) and Irish champion conditioner Gordon Elliott, who also successfully campaigned runners stateside, to make the trip.

"Foreign horsemen won the Iroquois in 2023 and they've come over a number of years," said Iroquois chairman Dwight Hall. "It's a big, galloping course, the accommodations are great, and they have a great time in Nashville."

Gallo added that both Great Meadow and Percy Warner Park are fully irrigated courses and meticulously maintained, which provides perfect racing conditions.

"The creation of the Commonwealth Cup is a natural progression for steeplechasing in Virginia," said Gold Cup co-chairman and NSA President Al Griffin. The Virginia Gold Cup Association runs significant race meets in both the spring and the fall, and we have worked hard to create enhanced opportunities for the horsemen. And it is not just Gold Cup. Foxfield (in Charlottesville) is carding an enhanced event this spring as well.

"On the other end of the spectrum, we have created sanctioned racing opportunities at point-to-points with the Old Dominion Hunt, and this year with Blue Ridge Hunt. With all of the steeplechase racing in Virginia, it was time that we created a Grade 1 racing opportunity in the Commonwealth."

The announcements of bigger and better programs in Virginia and Tennessee come on the heels of another major development on the NSA circuit. In late November, the Carolina Cup Association said the Grade 1 Colonial Cup would return after an eight-year-hiatus to Springdale Race Course in Camden, S.C., as part of an-all stakes card on Nov. 17.

The addition of the Commonwealth Cup and Colonial Cup gives American steeplechasing a huge boost, providing the sport with much-needed championship-caliber races to help decide year-end honors, specifically, the Eclipse Award. In 2024, there will be a total of seven Grade 1s, with three at the New York Racing Association flat tracks in Saratoga Springs and Aqueduct in Queens, along with the Grand National at Far Hills. That's the highest number of top-class races in recent memory.

The Colonial Cup return to South Carolina

The return of the heralded Colonial Cup, the first hundred-thousand-dollar steeplechase in the U.S., gives jump racing a much-needed second championship day to decide year-end honors, specifically the Eclipse Award.

Last run in the fall in 2016 (it was contested in 2018 in the spring as part of the Carolina Cup card), the Grade 1 often served as a tiebreaker for the championship following the Grand National at Far Hills a month earlier.

©Tod Marks

Since the race was cancelled, the NSA had hosted only two Grade 1s outside of the New York flat tracks, at Far Hills and the Iroquois in May. That left a huge void late on the calendar, which became magnified when a horse such as Hewick came over from Europe last year to capture the Grand National, and earn the Eclipse Award off of a single U.S. start.

Spotlight on the Unsung Heroes of Horse Racing: Our Grooms

From Iroquois Steeplechase

©Topper Williams

We believe in celebrating every contributor to the sport of horse racing. This year, we're excited to introduce a special recognition for a group that tirelessly works behind the scenes - our dedicated grooms.

Grooms are the backbone of our industry, ensuring the well-being and care of our magnificent horses. Their unwavering dedication, trustworthiness in every situation, and deep respect from peers, trainers, owners, and especially the horses, are what make them truly remarkable.

To honor their invaluable contribution, we are thrilled to announce the introduction of Groom's Bonuses for the 1st place winner of every race. A $1,000 bonus will be awarded for the Iroquois Steeplechase and $500 bonus for all the other races at our race meet. When talking to Don and Sara Jo Gill, sponsors of this new bonus, they let us know why this is important to them. "It's our way of saying thank you and acknowledging the hard work and passion that grooms bring to our beloved sport."

Summer Jumps Racing

Belmont at Saratoga
Sunday, June 9
$150,000 Beverly R. Steinman (Gr.1)

Colonial Downs
Thursday, July, 11
$50,000 Maiden Hurdle
$50,000 Maiden Filly/Mare Hurdle
$55,000 Allowance (NW2) Hurdle

Saratoga
Wednesday, July 17
$150,000 A. P. Smithwick Memorial (Gr.1) Hurdle Stakes

Colonial Downs
Thursday, July 18
$50,000 Maiden Hurdle
$30,000 Ratings Handicap Hurdle
$35,000 Ratings Handicap Hurdle

Saratoga
Wednesday, July 31
$75,000 Jonathan Kiser Memorial (Novice) Hurdle Stakes

Colonial Downs
Thursday, August 1
$50,000 Maiden Hurdle
$30,000 Maiden Starter Hurdle
$55,000 Allowance (NW2) Hurdle

Colonial Downs
Thursday, August 8
$50,000 Maiden Hurdle
$35,000 Ratings Handicap Hurdle
$100,000 Randolph Rouse (Filly/Mare) Hurdle Stakes

Saratoga
Wednesday, August 14
$150,000 Jonathan Sheppard Memorial (Gr.1) Hurdle Stakes

Colonial Downs
Thursday, August 22
$50,000 Maiden Hurdle
$50,000 Maiden (4YO) Hurdle
$30,000 Maiden Starter Hurdle

Saratoga
Wednesday, August 28
$75,000 Michael G. Walsh Memorial (Novice) Hurdle Stakes

Colonial Downs
Thursday, September 5
$50,000 Maiden Hurdle
$30,000 Ratings Handicap Hurdle
$100,000 Life's Illusion (Filly/Mare) Hurdle Stakes

Colonial Downs
Friday, September 6
$50,000 Flat Race for Jumpers

Belmont at Aqueduct
Thursday, September 19
$75,000 William Entenmann Memorial (Novice) Hurdle Stakes
$150,000 Lonesome Glory (Gr.1) Hurdle Stakes

— Classifieds —

BOARDING/FOALING/LAYUPS

DAYDREAM FARM: Hamburg, PA. Rehabs, layups and sales prep. Personalized care. Odyssey Proformance. Trainer on farm. Broodmares and foaling. Reasonable rates, references available. www.daydreamfarmpa.com. Call (610) 780-0972.

YOUR FOALS NEED STRONG BONE! Board your Thoroughbred broodmare at historic farm rich in limestone near Frederick, MD. Competitive rates. Call or text Sean (301) 471-9221.

Helmore Farm

Specializing in starting horses for the track and restarting OTTBs for new careers

Great space for layups with small paddocks and a solid round pen. Located in Baltimore County, 10 minutes from Pimlico, 35 from Laurel, and 1hr and 10 from Delaware Park. Call Becky Cory today for details and pricing—

410-259-3516

BACKSTOP

MHBA AFTERCARE ACCOUNT

MarylandThoroughbred.com

Want to advertise in Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred?
Call Barrie at 410-252-2100 x116
Want the magazine?
Subscribe at Mid-AtlanticTB.com

Land & Farm Properties
Maryland • Delaware • Pennsylvania
Selling Horse Farms for 40 years and counting
A. John Price
Patterson Price LAND & FARMS
A DIVISION OF
Patterson Schwartz REAL ESTATE
302-379-6318
888-909-FARM

Environmentally Sensitive Company

Horse Manure Removal

Fastrak Express, Inc.
Hy-Tech Mushroom Compost, Inc.

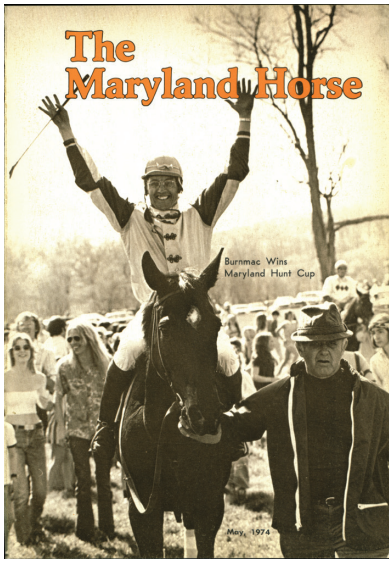
West Grove, PA
Rising Sun, MD
15 Horse Minimum • Straw Only
(800) 529-2146 • (410) 658-0520
Certified Commercial Manure Broker
www.fastrakexpress.com

Celebrating 40+ Years!

STITCHES by Chloé

- Jockey Colors
- Blinkers
- Saddle Cloths
- Embroidery

Cathy Morse
(410) 562-5066
sttchsbychloe@hotmail.com
www.stitchesbychloe.net
Check us out on FaceBook



50 years ago

■ Rowdy crowds at the Maryland Hunt Cup and the 100th running of the Kentucky Derby drew ire from editor Snowden Carter. "Never having been a man with a great love for change, I found myself dismayed at Churchill Downs this month when the largest crowd [163,628] ever to see a horse race in this country came within an inch of seizing control of the Kentucky Derby program. It was frightening to watch from the roof of the grandstand as an estimated 100,000 young people jammed into the vast centerfield and ran wild with their power," reported Carter. Coverage of the Derby, won by Cannonade, included this observation: "Naked and near-naked took over [the] centerfield, making it a Garden of Holy Hell at $5 a head."

Carter didn't mince words about Maryland's timber classic as the headline of his editorial said it all: "Hooligans Threaten Hunt Cup."

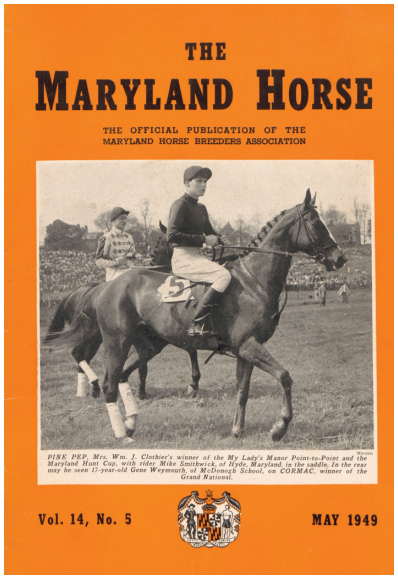
■ The 12-length victory by 9-year-old Burnmac in the 78th Maryland Hunt Cup represented a second-generation triumph, following failure, for horse, owner and rider. Burnmac, sired by Cormac, owned by Gene Weymouth and ridden by Louis "Paddy" Neilson, was the fifth Pennsylvania horse in six years to capture the Hunt Cup – three of the five were sired by Cormac, as was the 1974 runner-up, Eastmac.

■ Photographer Skip Ball recounted his adventure to photograph the closely guarded arrival of Princess Margaret and her husband Lord Snowdon to Churchill Downs. Using the "spy techniques" he had watched on television, Ball took an educated guess on where the princess would arrive, and with boldness and inability to hear the word "no", he got the shot.

SKIP BALL COLLECTION / MARYLAND HORSE LIBRARY

Skip Ball got his photo of Princess Margaret.

■ Janon Fisher Jr., a founder and three-time president of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, was honored by the Maryland Racing Writers Association as the recipient of the annual Outstanding Achievement Award. The trainer of three-time Maryland Hunt Cup winners Blockade and Mountain Dew also had stakes winners on the flat, was twice a director of the Maryland Jockey Club (Pimlico), as well as that track's treasurer, and was for five years Master of the Green Spring Valley Hounds.



75 years ago

■ One week after Cormac won the Grand National over Pine Pep, the two W. Burling "Burley" Cocks trainees lined up to battle it out at the Maryland Hunt Cup.

Cormac, owned and ridden by 16-year-old McDonogh School student Gene Weymouth, had the lead after 20 of the 22 fences, but stopped with a severely cut tendon before reaching the 21st. Pine Pep, carrying the colors of Mrs. William J. Clothier of Philadelphia and winner of the My Lady's Manor a few weeks earlier, flew home with plenty to spare under top timber rider D. Michael "Mikey" Smithwick.

Pine Pep proved a worthy Hunt Cup champion when adding the 1950 and 1952 runnings to become the third horse to retire the race's challenge cup. Cormac's freak accident was caused by a broken beer bottle found in the tanbark fill that covered the road crossing. The 6-year-old, one of the few entire horses to compete in the Hunt Cup, was saved for stud duty and became a major sire in the sport (see 50 years ago).

■ Bowie's successful 12-day early spring meet included an impressive performance by Taylor Leatherbury's 2-year-old Roman colt Eastern Flyway in the Bowie Kindergarten.

Purchased by Leatherbury the previous fall at Keeneland for $9,500, Eastern Flyway raced four seasons, won nine times and earned $26,020. He retired to his owner's Craftwell Farm in Shady Side, Md., where he sired two foals before dying from forage poisoning. Both foals were winners, led by stakes winner Eastern Hobo, trained late in his career by the breeder's young son, King T. Leatherbury.

10 years ago

■ Sandra McKee interviewed Randy Kroop, the fourth generation boot maker of A.M. Kroop and Sons. The Kroop family business had roots in Laurel since 1923,

ANNE LITZ

Randy Kroop shown at work at the historic Laurel boot making business.

making custom leather boots for jockeys, foxhunters and celebrities (Madonna, Carly Simon and Lyle Lovett were among the customers), and had a sterling reputation around the world. The success came from the quality and longevity of the boots, hand-made through 125 steps.

Granddaughter of founder Adolph Michael Kroop (whose father was a shoemaker in Latvia), Randy Kroop, 60, was the last of her family who wanted to continue the business, which first opened in New York in 1907. "It's the story of our family's history, of artistry and survival," she said. "It's life."

A.M. Kroop and Sons closed in 2018.

■ It had been 75 years since the Maryland-sired, -bred, -owned and -trained Challedon became a Preakness legend when sweeping home to victory over a sloppy track.

Owned by William Brann, who co-bred him with Robert Castle, and trained by Louis Schaefer, the son of Glade Valley Farm stallion *Challenger II was the nation's first two-time Horse of the Year, taking the title in 1939 and 1940. He raced coast-to-coast, and counted among his other victories back-to-back runnings of the Pimlico Special. He was inducted into racing's Hall of Fame in 1977.

■ Richard "Dickie" Small, a dean among Maryland trainers, succumbed to cancer at age 68. From a family of horsemen that included his uncle, Hall of Fame trainer Sidney Watters Jr., Small trained his first winner in 1974, amassed 1,198 wins and turned out such stars as classic-placed multimillionaires Broad Brush and Broad Brush's Breeders' Cup Classic-G1-winning son Concern, and top filly Caesar's Wish.

Small was well-known for his support of young riders, among his pupils Andrea Seefeldt Knight, Rosie Napravnik and Forest Boyce. "He was a take-you-under-his-wing kind of person," said owner, breeder and sales consignor Becky Davis, whose father Dr. Tom Bowman was one of Small's close friends.

Said childhood friend Ted Mudge, "He spoke reverently of [trainers] Buddy Raines and Burley Cocks and some of those old-time guys who helped him. Maybe giving back and helping other people was a way to pay that back. I could see him thinking, 'How can I help people not go through what I went through?' "

25 years ago

■ The career of Maryland track announcer Dave Rodman was told by Vinnie Perrone. A radio disc jockey as a teenager in New Orleans, La., Rodman eventually found his way to the announcer booth at Jefferson Downs in his home state in 1981, moved to Louisiana Downs, and arrived in Maryland in 1991. He's been the voice of the Preakness ever since.

■ A Maryland-bred colt sold for $2 million at the Keeneland April 2-year-old sale, equaling the record (set a month earlier) for a juvenile at public auction. Bred by Katherine Willson of Point Lookout Farm in Woodbine, out of her Assert (Ire) mare Three Grand, he was from the first crop of Northview Stallion Station sire Not For Love. Purchased by Michael Tabor, he was headed to trainer D. Wayne Lukas.

Named La Salle Street, the colt lost all three starts.

■ Buckland Farm, the 495-acre establishment near Gainesville that had a long history as one of Virginia's most prominent Thoroughbred facilities under the ownership of Thomas Mellon Evans, was sold for $2.9 million to Marylander William Blake, who planned to use it as a cattle farm. The birthplace of 1981 Kentucky Derby/Preakness winner Pleasant Colony and numerous other stakes winners, Buckland was operated by Evans as a horse farm for slightly more than 40 years, until his death in 1997.

■ Jerold "Jerry" Hoffberger, one of Maryland's most prominent breeder/owners, was remembered after he died unexpectedly just two days after his 80th birthday. The lifelong horseman had arranged, in 1966, the $2.5-million syndication of Kentucky Derby/Preakness winner Kauai King – the first Maryland-bred to win the Kentucky Derby – who entered stud at Sagamore Farm.

Hoffberger also stood at the helm of two of Maryland's most famous enterprises: the Baltimore Orioles baseball team, and the National Brewing Company (makers of National Bohemian beer). After selling the Orioles to Washington, D.C., lawyer Edward Bennett Williams for $12 million [in August 1979], he plunged headlong into the Thoroughbred business, developing Sunset Hill Farm in Woodbine, where he stood a number of top Maryland sires, including Run the Gantlet.

■ A remembrance of a racing pioneer was provided by veterinarian Dr. James V. Stewart, son of Caroline Stewart, one of the first women licensed to train Thoroughbred racehorses, who had recently died age 93.

"It is a story we so wanted her to tell, but her modesty and natural reserve" would not allow her to tell it herself, said Dr. Stewart. "It should not be seen as a summary with an end, but as an effort to preserve some of her remarkable experiences."

■ Fruits of Love, a 4-year-old Virginia-bred son of Hansel, won the $500,000 Dubai Turf Classic on Dubai World Cup day at Nad al Sheba racecourse, setting a record for 1½ miles in 2:28.45. It was the second career stakes win for the international campaigner who also ran in England, Ireland and Hong Kong.

Sold as a weanling at Keeneland for $70,000 by his breeders, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ash, he earned $1,089,543 in 23 starts, while winning three group races.

Hee-Haw Pimlico?

Sometimes, the archives just deliver.
In the 1960s, a donkey baseball game produced
a predictable amount of chaos for a gaggle
of Maryland horsemen and their steeds.

Walter M. "Skip" Ball was an award-winning staff photographer for *Maryland Horse* magazine from the mid-1960s to the late 1980s. His children donated his work to the Maryland Horse Breeders Association several years ago, and the photographs are part of the Maryland Horse Library as the Skip Ball Collection. In the next stages of our archiving projects, Ball's films and slides will be digitized to preserve this gifted photographer's legacy.

Multiple Graded SW 1/2-brother to 2023 Horse of the Year CODY'S WISH

MEDAGLIA D'ORO-DANCE CARD, BY TAPIT | $5,000 LF

ENDORSED

MULTIPLE GRADED STAKES WINNER OF $970,133

2YO Saratoga MSW **debut** winner, 6 fur. (**89 Beyer**)

3YO **debut** winner at Gulfstream, 6 fur. (**1:08 3/5**); 2ND Saratoga's 1 1/8-mile Curlin S., on muddy track; 4TH **G1** Travers S. ahead of OWENDALE, TAX, HIGHEST HONORS

Won/placed in **8 Stakes** lifetime, **5 Graded**, incl., 1ST Gulfstream Park Mile S.-**G2** (**101 Beyer**), Fred W. Hooper S.-**G3**, 2ND Westchester S.-**G3**, (**100 Beyer**, 1/2 length back CODE OF HONOR), Mr. Prospector S.-**G3**, etc.

1/2-Brother to 2023 Horse of the Year **CODY'S WISH** Two-time Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile-**G1** winner

Out of Grade 1 Winner **DANCE CARD**
Won 1 1/8-mile **G1** Gazelle S., 3RD Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint-**G1**, a length back of Champion GROUPIE DOLL

Descends from the female line of **LA TROIENNE**

By Multiple **G1** SW **MEDAGLIA d'ORO**
26 Career **G1** SWs, incl. Leading Sires **VIOLENCE** and **BOLT D'ORO**

Northview STALLION STATION

55 Northern Dancer Drive, Chesapeake City, MD 21915
northviewstallions.com

Linda Bench: 410.885.2855 | lbench@northviewstallions.com
Paul O'Loughlin: 443.566.2996 (cell) | paul@northviewstallions.com

Have a Virginia horse?

Opportunities abound at Colonial Downs this summer!

SATURDAY JULY 20, 2024

$125,000 Brookmeade Stakes VA BRED OR SIRED, Fillies & Mares, 3 and up, 1 1/16 mi., turf

$125,000 Edward P Evans Stakes VA BRED OR SIRED, 3 and up, 1 mi., turf

$125,000 Punch Line Stakes VA BRED OR SIRED, 3 and up, 5.5 fur., turf

$125,000 Typson Gilpin/Glenn Petty Stakes VA BRED OR SIRED, Fillies & mares, 5.5 fur., turf

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 2024

$150,000 Hickory Tree Stakes VA BRED, SIRED, OR CERTIFIED, 2 year olds, 5.5 fur., dirt

$150,000 Keswick Stakes VA BRED, SIRED, OR CERTIFIED, Fillies, 2 year olds, 5.5 fur., dirt

SATURDAY AUGUST 31,2024

$150,000 Bert Allen Handicap VA BRED, SIRED, OR CERTIFIED, 3 and up, 1 1/16 mi., turf

$150,000 Camptown Handicap VA BRED, SIRED, OR CERTIFIED, Fillies & Mares, 3 and up, 5.5 fur., turf

$125,000 Jamestown Stakes VA BRED OR SIRED, 2 year olds, 5.5 fur., turf

$150,000 Meadow Stable Handicap VA BRED, SIRED, OR CERTIFIED, 3 and up, 5.5 fur., turf

$150,000 Nellie Mae Cox Handicap VA BRED, SIRED, OR CERTIFIED, Fillies & Mares, 3 and up, 1 1/16 mi., turf

See VaBred.org for program details
or contact the Virginia Thoroughbred Association at 434-977-3716